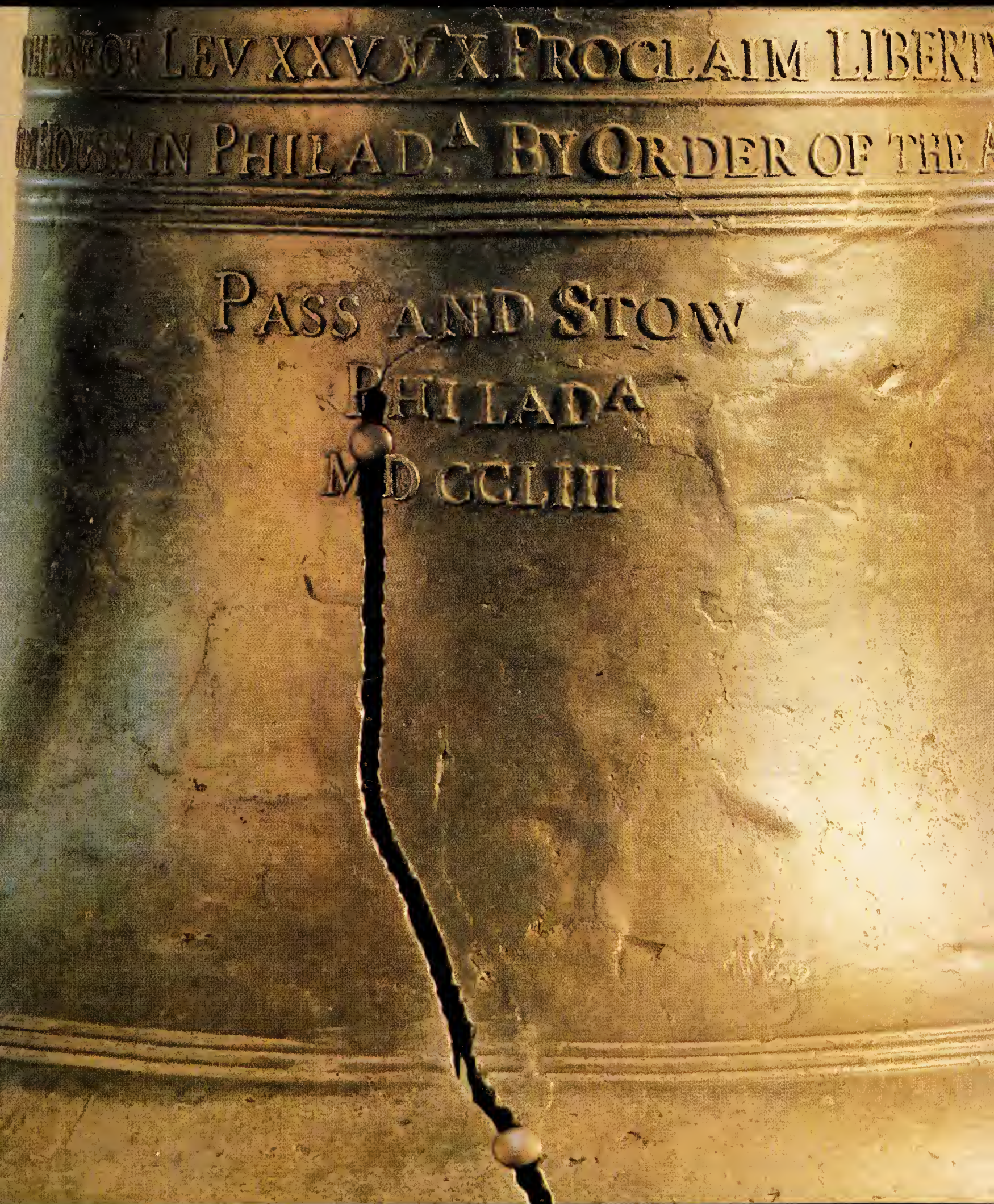


Independence

A Guide to Independence National Historical Park



Handbook 115

Independence

**A Guide to
Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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About This Book

Independence National Historical Park is perhaps the most significant historical property in the United States—and also one of the most complex. Its buildings and sites number some three dozen, and the many thousands of objects in its collections range from the little known to the transcendent. This handbook is a vista into this rich world of the founders. The essay by Richard B. Morris, author of many distinguished works on 18th-century America, summarizes the main lines of the Independence story. The concluding guide section has brief accounts, arranged alphabetically, of each of the principal historical places within the park, with suggestions on the best way to go about seeing them.

National Park handbooks, compact introductions to the natural and historical places administered by the National Park Service, are designed to promote public understanding and enjoyment of the parks. Each handbook is intended to be informative reading and a useful guide to park features. More than 100 titles are in print. They are sold at parks and by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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Part 1



Birthplace of the Nation

In the last quarter of the 18th century, Philadelphia was the center of some of the most creative and far-reaching political thought of the modern world. Here, within the space of a few square blocks, in buildings still standing in their original splendor, Americans cast off ancient colonial ties, directed the course of a long and uncertain war to secure their liberties, and instituted a form of government adapted to the new needs of a rising people.

The sense of what John Adams called "this mighty Revolution" is still a presence in the buildings and sites of Independence National Historical Park. The Liberty Bell is a symbol known around the world. Independence Hall, where two great charters of national destiny were adopted, is a shrine

to the principles of human rights and self-government. Each year millions visit them.

This handbook is a guide to these and other historic places. It combines a perceptive essay on the birth of the Nation by historian Richard B. Morris with a handy listing of sites. Interspersed are pictorial accounts of the principal events, people, and themes of this diverse park. Spend a few minutes with the interpretive portion of the handbook. It will repay you with insight into what is of lasting significance here: the deeds of a revolutionary generation which still profoundly influence our lives today.



The United States was created in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, when the Continental Congress voted the final form of the Declaration of Independence. The United States was perpetuated on September 17, 1787, when the Federal Convention completed its work on the Constitution and referred it, through Congress, to the individual states for ratification. Both these great decisions were made in the same chamber in what is now called Independence Hall, but was then the Pennsylvania State House. It would still be merely the old State House if independence had not been achieved and if the Constitution had not been rati-

fied and put into effect. The noble building, so venerable to later ages, might not even have survived, but might have been swept away in the surging growth of a modern city. In that case, a few students of history would sometimes remember the site as the stage of those lost causes. Instead, Pennsylvania's State House has become Independence Hall for the entire United States. Nor is that all. On account of the Declaration of Independence, it is a shrine honored wherever the rights of men are honored. On account of the Constitution, it is a shrine cherished wherever the principles of self-government on a federal scale are cherished.

Carl Van Doren

The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable EPOCH, in the History of America . . . it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

John Adams writing to Abigail Adams, July 3, 1776, just after Congress voted unanimously to sever ties with Britain. As it turned out, Americans chose to celebrate not the resolution of July 2 but the vote on July 4 to adopt the formal Declaration.

Metropolis of the Colonies

From a simple Quaker town, planted in 1682 by William Penn as the capital of his "Holy Experiment," Philadelphia grew into the largest, wealthiest, most cosmopolitan city in the colonies. A traveler in 1749 wrote of its "fine appearance, good regulations, agreeable situation, natural advantages, trade, riches and power." By

1776 the population stood at nearly 30,000 persons, who occupied some 6,000 houses and 300 shops clustered in a narrow strip along the banks of the Delaware.

The city owed its prosperity to sea-going commerce, which tapped a rich hinterland and brought goods and new ideas from Europe. A



Penn's original plan (above) shows the city spreading from river to river, with a central square and four smaller ones.

William Penn lived in the Slate Roof House (below left) from 1701-2. Christ Church (below) was founded in 1685, built 1727-54.



few great fortunes arose, but society was open and diverse, and persons of talent and enterprise could rise, as the lives of Franklin, David Rittenhouse, John Bartram and many others attest.

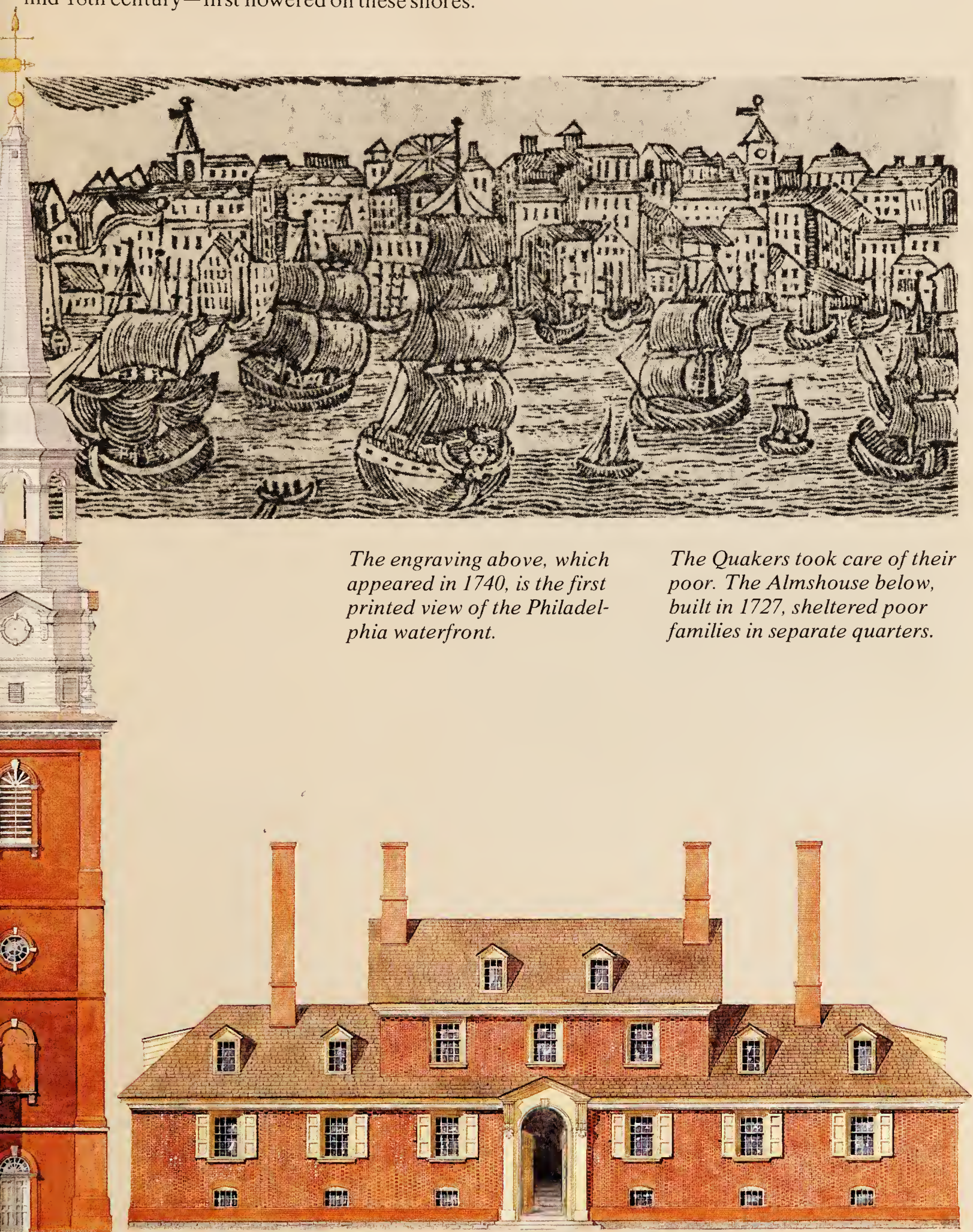
It was here that the Enlightenment—the intellectual awakening that swept Europe in the mid-18th century—first flowered on these shores.

Philadelphians established libraries and discussion clubs, patronized science, painting, and music, undertook reform and civic improvement, opened schools for their young—creating a culture that was one of the glories of the age.



The engraving above, which appeared in 1740, is the first printed view of the Philadelphia waterfront.

The Quakers took care of their poor. The Almshouse below, built in 1727, sheltered poor families in separate quarters.



The City During the Revolution

Revolutions have their dark sides, and for Philadelphians the jubilation of mid-summer 1776 soon gave way to scarcity, a raging inflation, turmoil in the streets, and, in September 1777, assault and occupation by Howe's redcoats. The British army found warm quarters for the winter and enough loyalists to feel almost at home,

while Washington's troops froze at Valley Forge. Yet the occupation served no strategic purpose. Congress went about its deliberations at Lancaster, and Washington's army remained intact. Washington almost routed Howe at Germantown in October, and all winter he harassed the British and frequently cut their supply lines.



To combat the powerful Royal Navy, Congress in early 1776 commissioned the city's yards to build four frigates. The first one ready, the 32-gun Randolph, put to sea in mid-July. The conjectural sketch above shows her being fitted out.

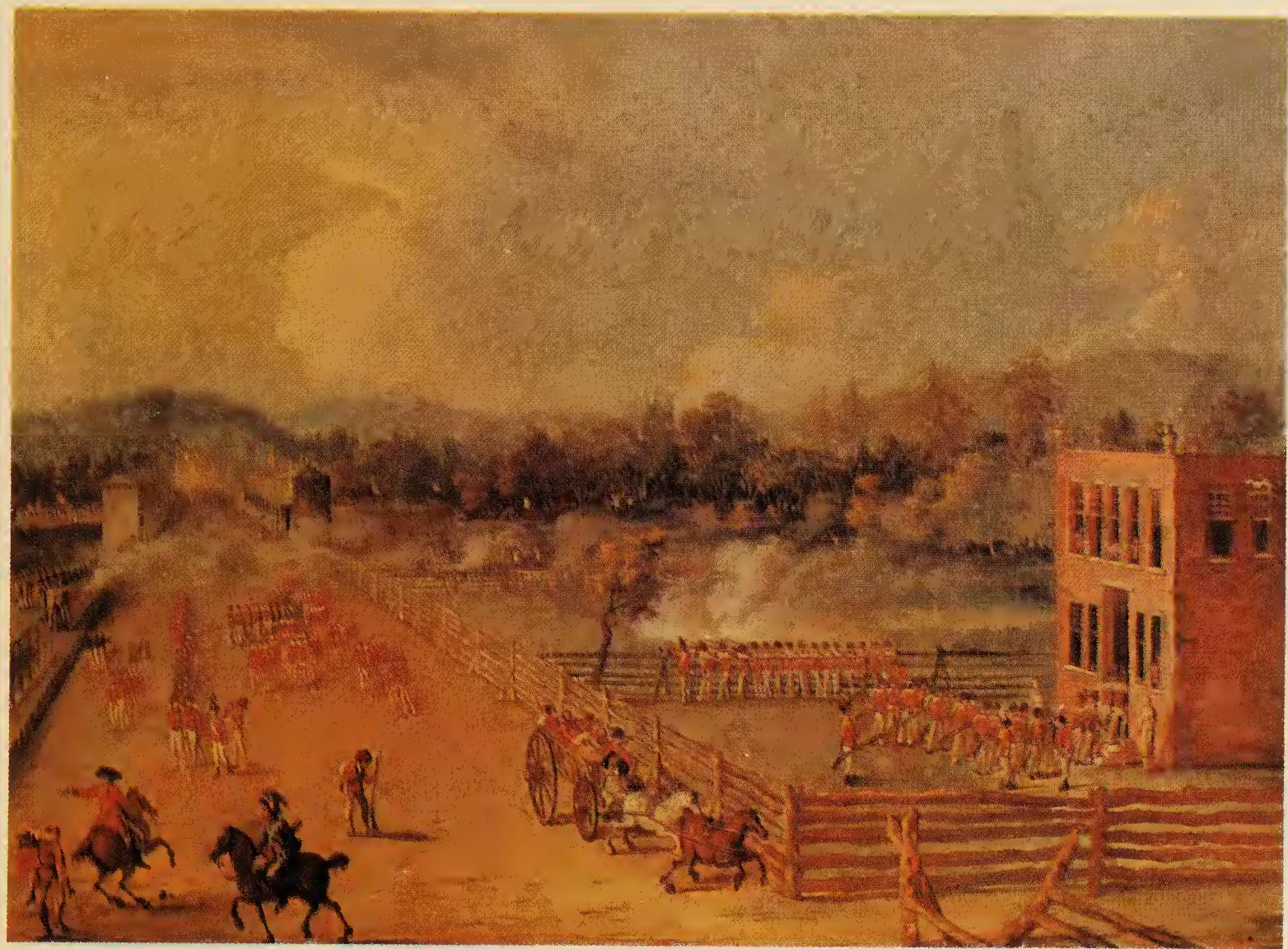
Thomas Paine published his widely influential pamphlet Common Sense in Philadelphia in January 1776. Its arguments went far toward mobilizing public opinion in the months before the Declaration.



After Howe was dismissed in May 1778 for inactivity, it was clear that the city had really captured Howe.

The patriots returned to a wrecked city. To restore order, Washington installed Benedict Arnold as military governor, but his high living and profiteering made him unpopular. An air of

wartime settled on the city: regulations, drills, the persecution of dissenters, wranglings in Congress. Then in October 1781 came the news of Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, and the public rejoiced with church services, artillery salutes, and "Illuminations."



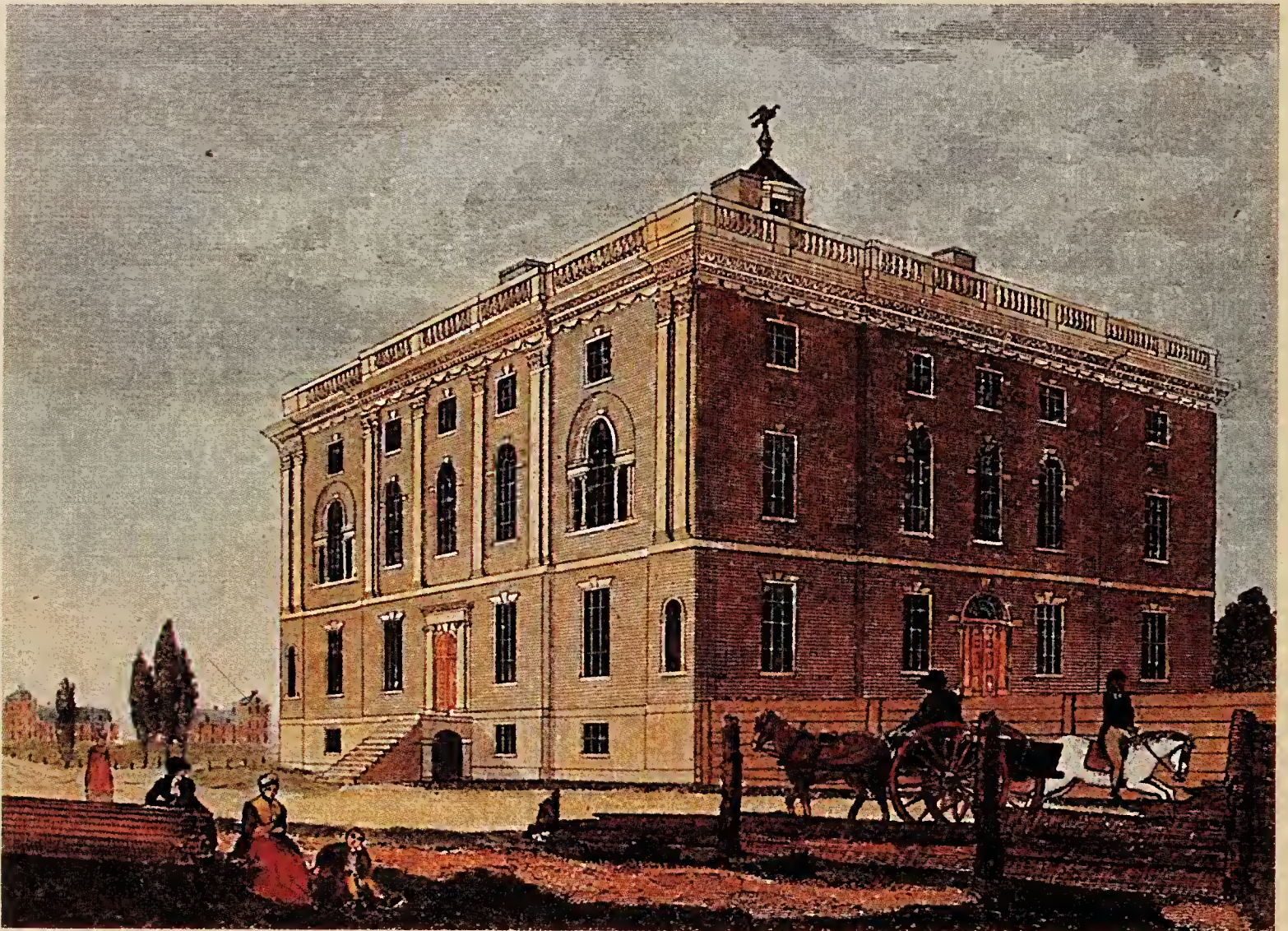
After Sir William Howe (left) occupied the city, Washington attacked his forward lines at Germantown on October 4, 1777. The assault was well planned but poorly executed.

Fog and smoke from the firing blinded the American columns and prevented them from co-operating effectively. Some of the hardest fighting swirled around the Chew house, seen here in a painting made in 1782.

Capital of the New Nation

For 10 years, 1790-1800, while a new “Federal City” was building on the Potomac, Philadelphia was the capital of the young republic. To accommodate its Federal guest, the city offered the use of its public buildings. The County Courthouse, west of the State House, became the seat of Congress, the House taking the lower

chamber, the Senate the upper. Both chambers were fitted out with mahogany desks, elbow chairs, carpeting, and stoves—all pronounced “unnecessarily fine” by a visitor. The Supreme Court shared City Hall with the mayor. The executive branch had to find its own quarters. Except for the Treasury, the departments, then



The elaborate “President’s House” (above), built at Ninth and Market at a cost of \$100,000, was Philadelphia’s strong play for the permanent capital. But Washington had little interest in living there, and Adams declined the State’s formal invitation in 1797, dampening the city’s hopes.



quite small, rented space in private houses. The President lived and worked in Robert Morris' house near Market and Sixth. It was the most elegant house in town but one of the noisiest because of traffic. Though the State eventually built a "President's House" elsewhere, neither Washington nor John Adams, his successor, ever

lived in it. While adequate, all these quarters were not enough to woo Congress into settling down for good in the city with the best claim of any to the seat of national government.



Indian delegations frequently came to town in the 1790s to parley with the government over rights and treaties. This group representing northeastern tribes arrived in 1793, called on the President, and were shown about town. From a print by William Birch.

The First Bank of the United States, chartered by Congress in 1791 for 20 years, was the culmination of a brilliant campaign by Alexander Hamilton to create a national monetary system. This print by William Birch shows the building shortly after it was completed in 1797.

Part 2



A Rising People

“Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof.” These words from Leviticus inscribed around the crown of the Liberty Bell still cast their spell upon all who read them. They remind us of the freedoms for which the patriots fought the Revolutionary War. They symbolize that central purpose of American life, one still to be cherished and vigilantly protected. It was the Liberty Bell which was rung on the first reading of the Declaration of Independence to the citizens of Philadelphia in Independence Square on July 8, 1776, and according to tradition, it cracked when tolled on the occasion of the funeral of Chief Justice John Marshall 59 years later.

The Liberty Bell tolls no more, but the site in which it is located, Independence National Historical Park, is unique among all shrines commemorating the birth of the United States. No other cluster of buildings and sites conjures up for us so many images of great personages and significant events associated with the American Revolution and the founding of the Nation. At this site assembled the two Continental Congresses that united the Thirteen States in the conduct of the war and the making of peace. Here was drafted, debated, and signed the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution. In short, the momentous decisions establishing independence, national identity, and the rule of law were all made at this historic site.



Even long before the issues of the American Revolution had begun to take form, a remarkable statesman shaped the course of events in this area. This person was so extraordinarily gifted, so triumphant in so many fields that his feats dating back a generation before the outbreak of war with Great Britain have cast a legendary spell over the sites with which he was associated, most of them right here in Independence National Historical Park. Benjamin Franklin, who arrived in Philadelphia a penniless waif, disheveled and friendless walking up Market Street munching a puffy roll, propelled himself to the top by grit and ability. No person was more dreaded by the proprietary party than Franklin, and no figure commanded more prestige in the Provincial Assembly convened at the State House. In his celebrated *Autobiography* he reveals some of the events in which he was a leading actor.

At what is now **Franklin Court** this man of many hats—printer, publisher, civic leader, statesman, and world-renowned scientist—built a house in which he lived intermittently during the early years of the Revolution before being sent to France to help gain that nation's support for the American cause. To Franklin Court he returned after his triumphs in Paris to resume a life of enormous influence as President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania and finally as delegate to the Federal Constitutional Convention. Here at Franklin Court he died, but not before signing a memorial to Congress for the abolition of slavery—most fittingly, Franklin's last public act.

Indubitably the most renowned, Franklin was but one of a group of Philadelphians who joined with other radical leaders in setting up a model for a revolutionary apparatus combining mass involvement and economic warfare. Philadelphia became the principal seat

Steel frames outline the site of the printing office and house that Franklin built in a spacious courtyard off Market Street. His portrait below is by the artist William Woodward.

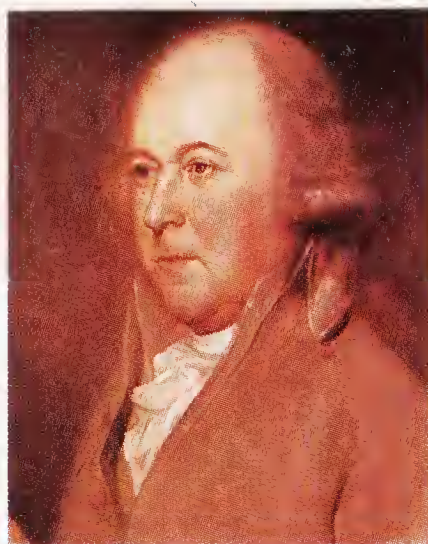




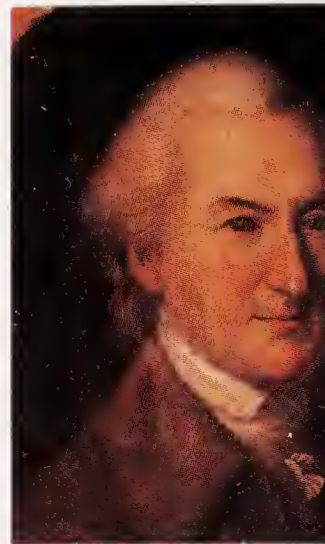
of such operations. The protest demonstrations and the boycott machinery developed in response to Parliamentary tax measures were largely centered or created in the area now covered by Independence National Historical Park.

To circumvent a lukewarm Assembly dominated by Franklin's long-time political partner, Joseph Galloway, now turned conservative, more radical leaders were forced to assume the initiative. Men like John Dickinson, eminent lawyer and the author of the *Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer*, that widely read pamphlet attacking the constitutionality of the Townshend Acts, and Charles Thomson, the Irish-born schoolteacher and merchant, who became permanent secretary of the Continental Congress, together kept Pennsylvania abreast of developments in the other colonies. The seat of their extra-legal activities was **City Tavern**, one of the historic sites in the park. Built in 1773, that hostelry quickly became a focus of social, business, and political activities for the Philadelphia elite. John Adams called it "the most genteel" tavern in all America. Here on May 20, 1774, came Paul Revere with news from New England that Parliament had passed a bill closing down the port of Boston. A great company gathered in the tavern's long room and, after a tumultuous discussion, passed a resolution agreeing to the appointment of a committee to convey sympathy to the people of Boston and to assure them of Philadelphia's "firm adherence to the cause of American liberty."

From these informal debates in City Tavern the groundwork was laid for the Revolution in Pennsylvania. When the governor refused a request of the populace to summon the Assembly, the popular leaders had committees set up in every county in the colony. Soon a de facto popular government by committee began to supplant and erode the lawful



John Adams



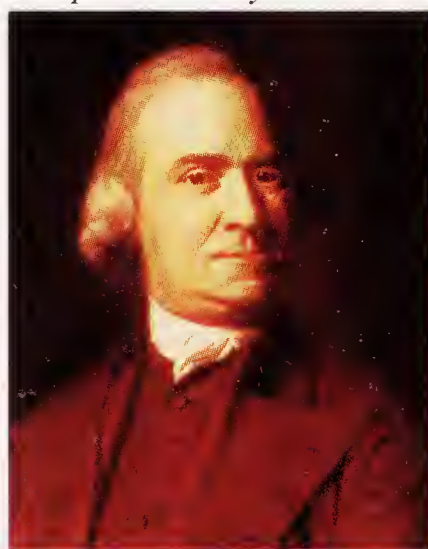
John Dickinson



Joseph Galloway



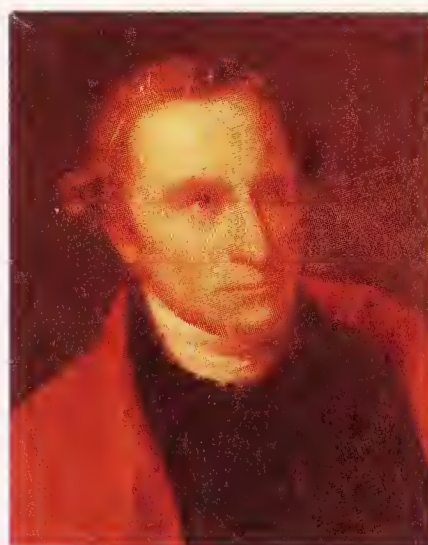
Paul Revere



Samuel Adams



Robert Morris



Patrick Henry



John Jay

Assembly. The Philadelphia Committee of Observation, Inspection, and Correspondence, as it was called, operating out of its headquarters at City Tavern, proposed that a Congress of the Thirteen Colonies convene in September 1774. Where else but Philadelphia seemed more suitable?

Twelve of the Thirteen Colonies (Georgia excepted) dispatched delegates to Philadelphia in the early fall of 1774. Joseph Galloway, as Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, offered the representatives the use of the State House in which to hold their deliberations. But the delegates shunned Galloway's offer and chose instead **Carpenters' Hall**, a private edifice serving the activities of the Master Carpenters of Philadelphia. That decision amounted to an open repudiation of Galloway and his conservative faction. It also forecast a cluster of radical actions, measures which were in no small degree influenced by the persuasive backstage tactics of the indefatigable New England cousins, Samuel and John Adams.

Carpenters' Hall was now the stage of a stirring if brief drama played out between conservatives and radicals. The former made a last-ditch effort to adopt a plan of union proposed by Galloway. Rejected by a close vote, the conservatives abandoned any serious opposition to the measures of the radical faction. The First Continental Congress adopted a sweeping nonimportation, nonexportation, and nonconsumption agreement. The delegates approved an eloquent "Petition to the King" asserting the right of the colonies to regulate their internal affairs and claiming for the populace the rights, liberties, and immunities of Englishmen. Before adjourning, the delegates recommended that a second Continental Congress convene at Philadelphia in the spring of 1775. Thus Carpenters' Hall saw the initial steps taken by delegates of 12



City Tavern



Carpenters' Hall

People of the City

On the eve of the American Revolution, Philadelphia ranked as one of the five or six largest cities in the British Empire. It was no longer largely a city of Quakers, though Quaker influence was still much in evidence. A steady influx of English, German, and Scotch-Irish immigrants, attracted by glowing reports of the colony's prosperity, not only swelled the city's population

during the past several decades but also influenced its religious, intellectual, and cultural growth and material well-being.

Philadelphia was a city of Lutherans, Jews, Catholics, Moravians, Methodists, and Presbyterians as well as Quakers; of gentry and merchants; of craftsmen and tradesmen; of housewives and "ladies"; of ordinary laborers.

Upper-class woman

Quaker merchant



Eighteenth-century Philadelphians were, according to the Rev. William Smith, "a people, thrown together from various quarters of the world, differing in all things—language, manners and sentiment." Yet they nourished an egalitarian attitude that offered encourage-

ment for advancement to all levels of society. "The poorest labourer upon the shore of the Delaware," wrote the Rev. Jacob Duche in 1772, "thinks himself entitled to deliver his sentiments in matters of religion and politics with as much freedom as the gentleman or

the scholar. Indeed, there is less distinction among the citizens of Philadelphia than among those of any civilized city in the world. . . . For every man expects one day or another to be upon a footing with his wealthiest neighbour."

In the months preceding the outbreak of war, and during the war itself, it also became a city of “strangers”—of delegates to the First and Second Continental Congresses, of military men, adventurers, and traders from around the world.

Some outsiders found the city “disgusting from its uniformity and sameness” and its residents not “remarkably courteous and hospitable

to strangers.” But the people of Philadelphia—whether garbed in Quaker plain dress, the genteel if sometimes gaudy finery of the gentry, the sober apparel of the tradesman, or the workman’s leather apron—reflected, even before the Revolution, many of the same democratic tendencies embodied in the Declaration of Independence.

Shopkeeper

German housewife

Journeyman printer



During the 18th century, Philadelphia was one of the leading publishing centers in America. Between 1740 and 1776, some 42 artisans practiced the “art and mystery” of the printer’s trade in the city, among them Benjamin Franklin. Nearly all the printers supported the re-

sistance movement, and the printing press proved to be a valuable ally in the production of anti-British articles, tracts, and books.

colonies to assert national sovereignty.

For some 6 weeks between September and October 1774 Carpenters' Hall resounded with great oratory carrying both nationalists and revolutionary overtones. Most eloquent of all the delegates, Virginia's Patrick Henry declared: "The distinction between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian, but an American." Considered a more cautious spokesman than the radical Henry, John Jay, a young New York lawyer, warned the people of Great Britain that "we will never submit to be hewers of wood or drawers of water for any ministry or nation in the world!"

Speaking at the Virginia Convention on March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry warned: "Gentlemen may cry, 'Peace! Peace!' — but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms!" Indeed, before the Second Continental Congress convened on May 10th at the State House (now



The State House about 1800.

IN CONGRESS

The unanimous Declaration

thirteen uni

When in
among the flowers of the earth, lie separate and
should declare the causes which impel them to the separation
with certain unalienable Rights, that among these
flowers in the bosom of the governed, — That with
by the foundation on such miserable
then close a noble
under heaven. I say
re for us; and jiu



Independence Hall), two blocks west from Carpenters' Hall, Henry's prophecy had been fulfilled. The shooting war had broken out at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. Now arguments over constitutional theories of empire which had absorbed so much of the First Continental Congress' attention gave way to the hard facts of war.

The Second Continental Congress responded to the challenge. Consciously regarding itself as the embodiment of the "United Colonies," Congress picked one of its own delegates, George Washington, present in the uniform of a colonel of the Virginia militia, to serve as commander in chief of "all the continental forces." A few days later, Congress pledged "the twelve confederated colonies" to support the bills of credit it now resolved to issue. Making a final concession to the peace faction, Congress adopted John Dickinson's "Olive Branch" petition, the last appeal of the colonies to the King. Any notion that George III might have had about the weakening of Congress' inten-

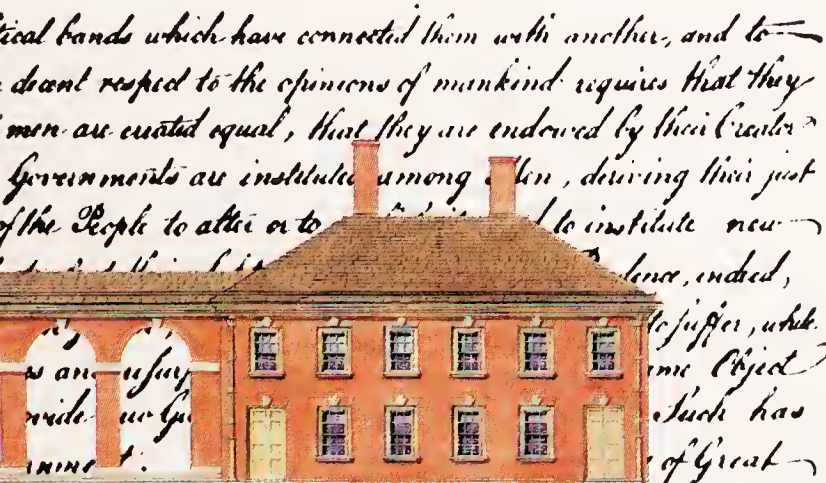
tions to continue the struggle were quickly dissipated by the subsequent adoption of the "Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms," wherein Dickinson and Thomas Jefferson, co-drafters of the document, solemnly declared: "Our cause is just. Our union is perfect."

Ahead lay some of the climactic movements of the drama to be played out in Independence Hall. On May 15, 1776, Congress, in language drafted by John Adams, called upon the colonies to organize their own governments as States. A crucial decision, it still fell short of a formal assertion by Congress of independence and nationhood issued by the colonies collectively; that declaration remained to be drafted, adopted and proclaimed to the world.

Working at his desk in the second-floor parlor of the home of a young German bricklayer named Jacob Graff (the site of which, though some distance from Independence Hall, is under the park's jurisdiction), Thomas Jefferson wrote the

JULY 4, 1776.

Declaration of Independence.



Declaration of Independence in 2 weeks. Despite trifling alterations by Franklin and John Adams and the deletion by Congress of the condemnation of slavery and the slave trade, the Great Declaration was the product of the mind and pen of Thomas Jefferson. Adopted on July 4, 1776, and signed by most of the delegates a month later, the Declaration lifted the struggle from self-interested arguments over taxation to the exalted plane of human rights. It proclaimed the self-evident truths of equality, unalienable rights, and the people's right to alter their governments when a "long train of abuses" threatens "to reduce them under absolute despotism."

Since Congress was both an executive and a legislative body, and, in the sense that it had jurisdiction over cases of capture on the high seas, a judicial tribunal as well, Independence Hall stood at the center of the wartime business of the Continental government. Congress dispatched commissioners abroad to seek out foreign aid. It ratified the treaties of amity and commerce and of military alliance with the King of France and, in turn, formally received the French minister Conrad Alexander Gérard. The Congressional delegates wrestled with mounting fiscal problems, drawing upon foreign and domestic loans, requisitions from the States, and printing press money, and, finally, drafting the astute Philadelphia merchant-banker Robert Morris to serve as Superintendent of Finance. Morris made heroic efforts to maintain Congress' fiscal solvency in the face of mounting debt and runaway inflation. His dazzling operations enabled him to finance the Yorktown campaign which resulted in the surrender of Cornwallis.

These were grave responsibilities and, as more and more leading public figures left Congress for the theater of the war,



Graff House



The study, reconstructed, in which Jefferson wrote the Declaration.

to take up posts in the State governments, or to serve their country abroad, Congress at times proved barely equal to its responsibilities. Writing to James Warren of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress in April 1776, John Adams had sagely observed: “The management of so complicated and mighty a machine as the United Colonies requires the meekness of Moses, the patience of Job, and the wisdom of Solomon, added to the valour of David.” In the absence of such men as Franklin, Jefferson, and Adams himself, Congress had to perform to the best of its abilities.

What Congress needed most of all was a constitutional structure that would confer upon the central government powers commensurate with its responsibilities. The Articles of Confederation that Congress adopted in 1777 (but which were not ratified by all the Thirteen States until 1781) fell considerably short of this objective. Lacking a strong executive, or an effective taxing power, the Articles of Confederation required the affirmative vote of 9 States for the adoption of measures of the first importance and a unanimous vote to amend the document itself.

Mute testimony to the weakness of the central government was the abandonment of Philadelphia by Congress toward the very end of the war. Save for the period of the British occupation of the city (1777-78), Independence Hall housed the deliberations of Congress until in June 1783 mutinous threats by local militiamen made it expedient for the delegates to begin their peregrinations, first to Princeton and then to Annapolis. It was at Annapolis that Congress ratified the victorious peace by which Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States and the new Nation was endowed with a territorial domain vaster than ever before

embraced by a republic.

Although Philadelphia was abandoned as the seat of the central government during the years of the Confederation and New York was to play host to the Continental Congress, Independence Hall was once more destined to house a great assemblage. Here on May 25, 1787, the Constitutional Convention convened. With some notable omissions, like John Adams and Thomas Jefferson who were holding diplomatic posts abroad, Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee who declined to serve, and John Jay who was passed over by his State in favor of an anti-nationalist candidate, the 55 men who convened at Philadelphia constituted an intellectual elite perhaps never again assembled to deal with public affairs in the history of the country. As Louis Otto, the French chargé d'affaires, commented to his superiors at home: “If all the delegates named for this Convention at Philadelphia are present, we will never have seen, even in Europe, an assembly more respectable for the talents, knowledge, disinterestedness, and patriotism of those who compose it.”

Visitors to Independence Hall may view the chamber in which the Constitution was framed. Sitting in Windsor chairs around green baize-covered tables were such principal architects of the Constitution as Pennsylvania delegates James Wilson and Gouverneur Morris, the latter chiefly responsible for the final styling and arrangement of the document. Nearby sat Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, Connecticut delegates, who proposed the Great Compromise providing for equal voting in the Senate and proportional representation in the House. Conspicuous both for his eloquence and his extremist views was Alexander Hamilton of New York, whose influence proved far more effective in securing the Constitution's ratification

The National Compacts

It's not too much to say that the American Republic was born in the Assembly Room of the old State House. Three times within a single generation delegates meeting here took control of their historic destiny and struck off national compacts.

The Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4, 1776, called a nation into existence. It gave Americans—and revolutionaries everywhere—a faith on which to base a republican form of government. Drawing on the political thought of the Enlightenment, Jefferson justified the break with Great Britain by appeal to the natural rights of man: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, among others. When government usurped those rights the people were entitled to alter or abolish it and institute new government. Jefferson and his colleagues did not invent this idea that sovereignty resides in the people and not in monarchs, governments, or institutions. Their distinctive contribution lay in giving the idea practical effect.

To the age-old problem of how to govern government, Americans found a brilliant solution in federalism—the distribution of powers between local and national levels. The Articles of Confederation, which went into effect in 1781, replaced an informal union with a central—if weak—government. They were the first halting steps on a journey that still continues. For 8 years they were the law of the land, but hardly adequate to the exigencies of war, economic depression, and rebellion on the frontier. The States had so jealously reserved their powers that Congress had little means of compelling taxes, controlling trade, or directing the general affairs of the Nation.

It was clear to most thinking persons that a drastic remedy was needed. Called to Philadelphia in the summer of 1787, delegates from 12 States met in convention in the State House and framed a new instrument of government, the Federal Constitution. This document, which reconciled liberty with order and unity with diversity, laid down the principles by which Americans have governed themselves for two centuries.



This painting, for all its matter-of-factness, conjures up one of the great scenes of the American Revolution. Jefferson, at center, hands the draft of the Declaration to President John Hancock as other members of the drafting committee—John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and, sitting at center, Benjamin Franklin—look on. The artist is Edward Savage, who based his work in part on a canvas by Robert Pine. Though done long after the event, the painting is a useful guide to the appearance of the Assembly Room in 1776.



Jefferson was lodging with Jacob Graff, a bricklayer who lived on 7th Street, when he wrote his draft of the Declaration. He occupied a furnished parlor and bedroom on the second floor. In that parlor, he said much later, he "wrote habitually and in it wrote this paper." His purpose "was not to find out new principles, or new arguments, never before thought of . . . but to place before mankind the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent . . . it was intended to be an expression of the American mind."



James Madison was the single most influential figure at the Federal Convention. A scholar, an experienced politician, and a committed nationalist, he was persuaded that the prosperity of the country depended on a strong union. He was the author of the Virginia Plan—a proposal for a central government with powers that operated directly rather than indirectly on the people—and the tireless shepherd of his colleagues toward that goal. It is from his notes, published many years later, that we have our view of what went on in the Convention.

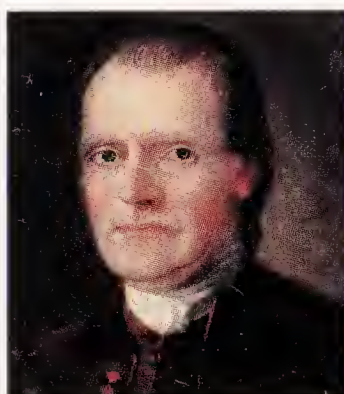
than in its drafting. Of Virginia's James Madison one delegate wrote: "Every person seems to acknowledge his greatness. He blends together the profound politician with the scholar." Self-appointed scribe of the Convention, Madison left us the most detailed and accurate record of the debates.

Among the most treasured pieces in the park's collection is the high-backed President's chair. The occupant of this chair, for the nearly 3 months of the Federal Convention's continuous sessions, was George Washington. Already a legend, a commanding if generally silent presence, he presided over the deliberations with both vigor and tact. Old Benjamin Franklin, bringing to the assemblage an aura of benevolence and the wisdom of great years, looked up at the President's chair in the closing moments of the convention and, as Madison records it, observed a sun with outstretched rays on its back. "I have," he remarked, "often and often in the course of the session and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that behind the president without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

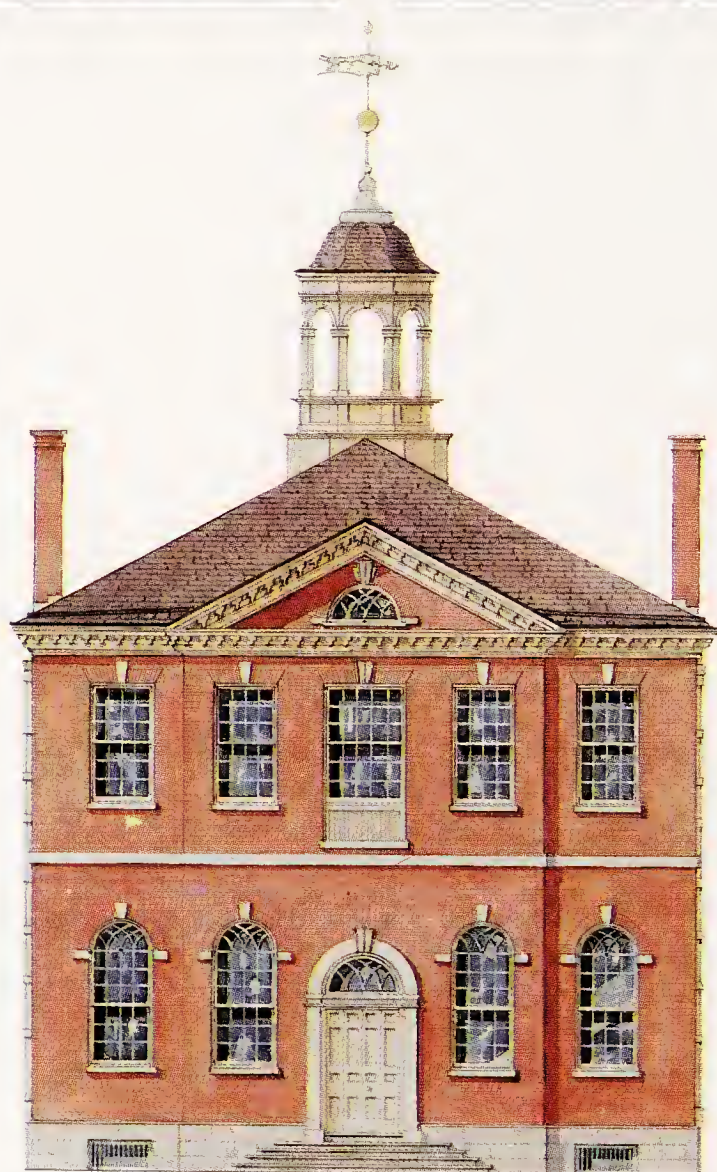
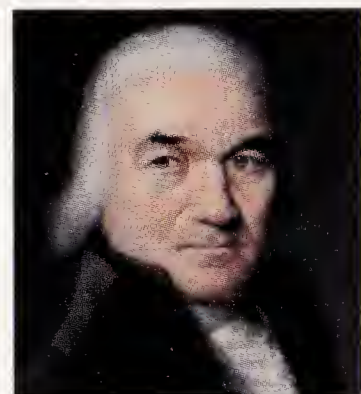
Upon ratification of the Constitution, Congress voted to establish the national capital at Philadelphia until 1800, when a permanent capital would be ready on the banks of the Potomac. After a brief stay in New York City, the new Federal Government took up residence here. Beginning on December 6, 1790, this site served as the seat of all three branches of the government and of the creative decisions of statecraft which marked the formative years of the new Nation.

At the Philadelphia County Courthouse (**Congress Hall**) President Washington was inaugurated for his second

Roger Sherman



Oliver Ellsworth



Old City Hall

Gouverneur Morris



James Wilson



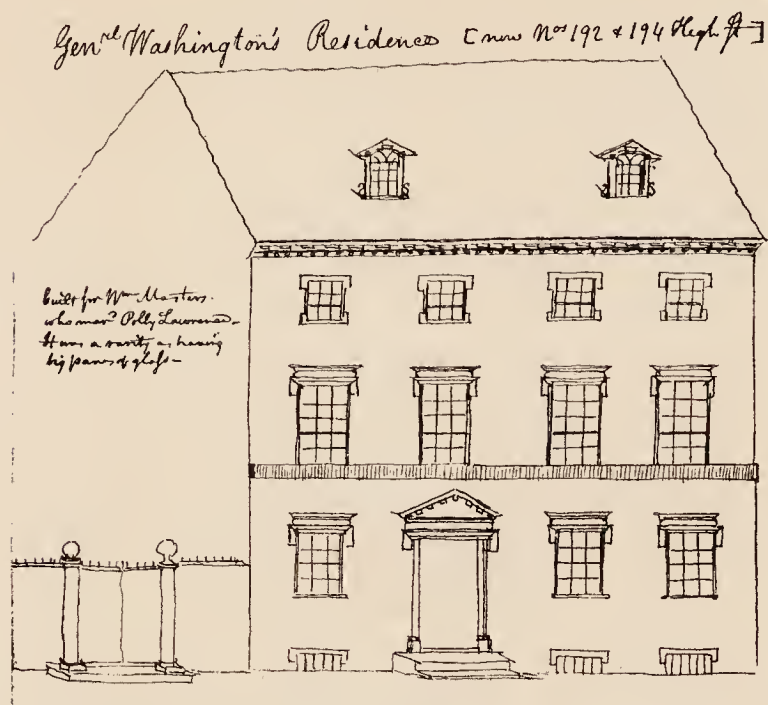
Congress Hall

term, and this building was also the scene of the peaceful transition of the Presidency to John Adams in 1797. Congress met at this hall, with the House of Representatives occupying the lower floor, the Senate, the second story. In this hall such great issues as civil rights, constitutional powers, and economic policy were resolved. On December 15, 1791, Congress declared the first ten amendments ratified by the necessary number of States. This cherished Bill of Rights would light a torch for both the States and many nations. In this hall Congress first carried out the provisions of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 for admission of territories to statehood on an equal footing with the original Thirteen States on attaining a population of 60,000. This extraordinary innovation brought Vermont (1791), Kentucky (1792), and Tennessee (1796) into the Union.

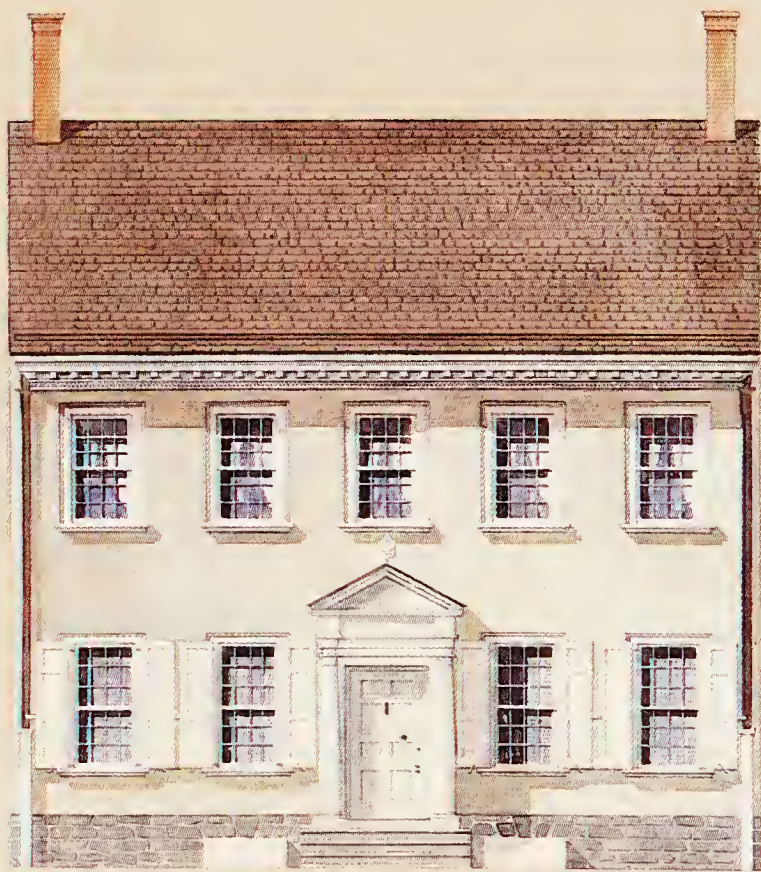
Congress Hall provided the forum for a notable clarification of the locus of the treaty-making power. Even before moving to Philadelphia the Senate, by declining to confer with President Washington on a pending treaty, had created the inference that the constitutional provision empowering the President to make treaties “by and with the advice and consent of the Senate” meant “consent” after the fact of negotiation. If the Senate’s role was now restricted, what of the House, which was given no explicit power over treaties in the Constitution? The test came after the Senate in a close vote had ratified the treaty that Chief Justice John Jay had negotiated with Great Britain in 1794. It was now up to the House to appropriate money to put the treaty into effect. To withhold the money would in effect annul the treaty. With the House closely divided, Representative Fisher Ames of Massachusetts carried the day for the appropriation

The First President

William Rush's life-sized statue of Washington, c. 1814.



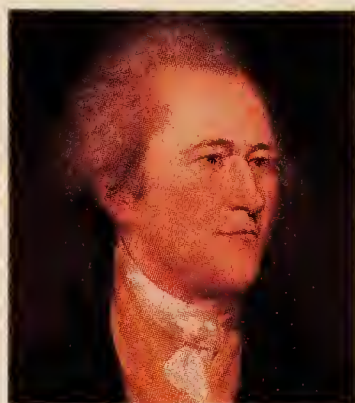
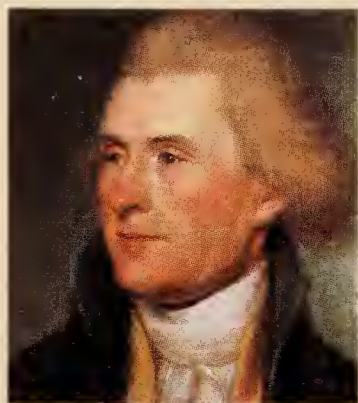
During their terms as president, both Washington and Adams lived in the Robert Morris house (above). This handsome Georgian building, now lost, was the scene of the weekly levees that Washington gave for officialdom and leading citizens. The Deshler-Morris House in Germantown (below) was Washington's residence and headquarters during the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 and again during the summer of 1794.



Washington's original cabinet consisted of Thomas Jefferson, State; Alexander Hamilton, Treasury; Henry Knox, War; and Edmund Randolph, Attorney-General. As a body, it was a source of strength and

some division. Jefferson and Hamilton held contrary views of the proper role of government. They differed at almost every point of domestic and foreign policy and were soon at odds personally. Jefferson

thought Hamilton a threat to liberty, while Hamilton considered the Virginian an impractical theorist and an obstacle to the sound measures needed for national survival.



Washington was overwhelmingly the popular choice for president. No one else—not even the aged Franklin—had the range of experience, the esteem at home, and the prestige abroad to lead what insiders frankly regarded as an experiment in self-government.

He brought to the office common sense, uncommon honesty, energy, and above all his own immense character, which across two centuries still touches his successors. The achievements of his two administrations (1789-1797) are many: winning the adherence of most of the people to the central government, establishing the national credit and a permanent army and navy, putting down rebellions by red men and white on the

frontier, negotiating complicated treaties with Spain and Great Britain, and holding firmly to a policy of neutrality in disputes between European powers.

Jefferson summed up Washington best: “His was the singular destiny and merit of leading the armies of his country successfully through an arduous war for the establishment of its independence, of conducting its councils through the birth of a government, new in its forms and principles, until it settled down into an orderly train and of scrupulously obeying the laws through the whole of his career civil and military, of which the history of the world furnishes no other example.”



The coach that Washington rode in as President is believed to resemble this one, which belonged to a wealthy Philadelphian. The original is at Mount Vernon.

with a memorable speech that is still considered one of the supreme oratorical efforts in the history of Congress.

Among the very first business of Congress was the chartering of the Bank of the United States under a bill drawn up by the dynamic Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, and defended by his persuasive resort to the Constitutional doctrine of “implied powers.” A cornerstone of Federal fiscal policy, the bank, which served as a government depository and regulator of the currency, initially operated in Carpenters’ Hall, and then moved to the stately new edifice on South Third Street (**First Bank of the United States**). When its charter expired in 1811, it was succeeded after some years by the **Second Bank of the United States**, which built a home of its own, a Greek Doric temple on lower Chestnut Street, designed by the young Philadelphian William Strickland. The Second Bank, after flourishing under its third president, Nicholas Biddle, failed to have its charter renewed as a result of the implacable opposition of President Andrew Jackson. After it closed its doors, the bank building was used as a Customs House until 1935. Not far from the two banks stands the graceful **Philadelphia Exchange** (1834), Strickland’s masterpiece, and testimony to the continued importance of the city as a commercial and financial center.

The Robert Morris mansion on Market Street below Sixth (no longer standing) served as the Presidential residence. The Department of State took a building at the northwest corner of Eighth and Market Streets, while the Treasury operated at the southwest corner of Third and Chestnut Streets. The Morris residence was the scene of stately Presidential levees and of informal meetings with departmental heads which formed the nucleus of the Cabinet system. Here



First Bank of the United States.



Second Bank of the United States.



Philadelphia Exchange.

Washington sought to reconcile the widening breach between Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, which contributed to the emergence of the two-party system. Here Washington braved public opinion by steering a neutral course as the French Revolution threatened to drag America into a general European war. Here, too, the President submitted his Farewell Address to his Cabinet and then gave it to the people in the columns of the *Philadelphia Daily Advertiser* of September 19, 1796. There people first read Washington's "Great Rule," an unaligned foreign policy.

The Philadelphia City Hall (**Old City Hall**) served as the forum for the Supreme Court of the United States under successive Chief Justices John Jay, John Rutledge, and Oliver Ellsworth. There decisions were handed down upholding the supremacy of treaties and defining the powers of Congress to tax, decisions which laid the foundations for the broad construction of the Constitution under John Marshall.

Standing on the hallowed ground of Independence National Historical Park, one may still recapture those stirring moments when the people of Philadelphia cheered the reading of the Great Declaration. One may catch echoes of the response of a sobered Congress hearing dispatch after dispatch from General Washington remonstrating on the lack of funds and supplies for his starving and half-naked soldiers, or the shock of the news of the treason of Arnold and of the capitulation of Charleston. There were heartening messages as well: the victory of Saratoga, the news of the French alliance, of the arrival of Rochambeau with French troops and naval forces, the climactic triumph at Yorktown, and the Preliminary Peace which in effect ended the

war and was to bring the United States recognition from all the great powers.

In his first Inaugural Address delivered in New York, Washington had summed up the glorious epoch in which he and his associates had been principal actors, and, in these stirring and cautioning phrases, challenged his fellow Americans to participate in the new era: "The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the republican model of government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

Composed some two centuries ago, Washington's articulation of America's purposes, its responsibilities, and its special role as a symbol of the democratic way of life both at home and abroad constitutes a message and a reminder to those who visit this historic place where the people of the United States first asserted their sovereign right to control their own destiny.

Richard B. Morris

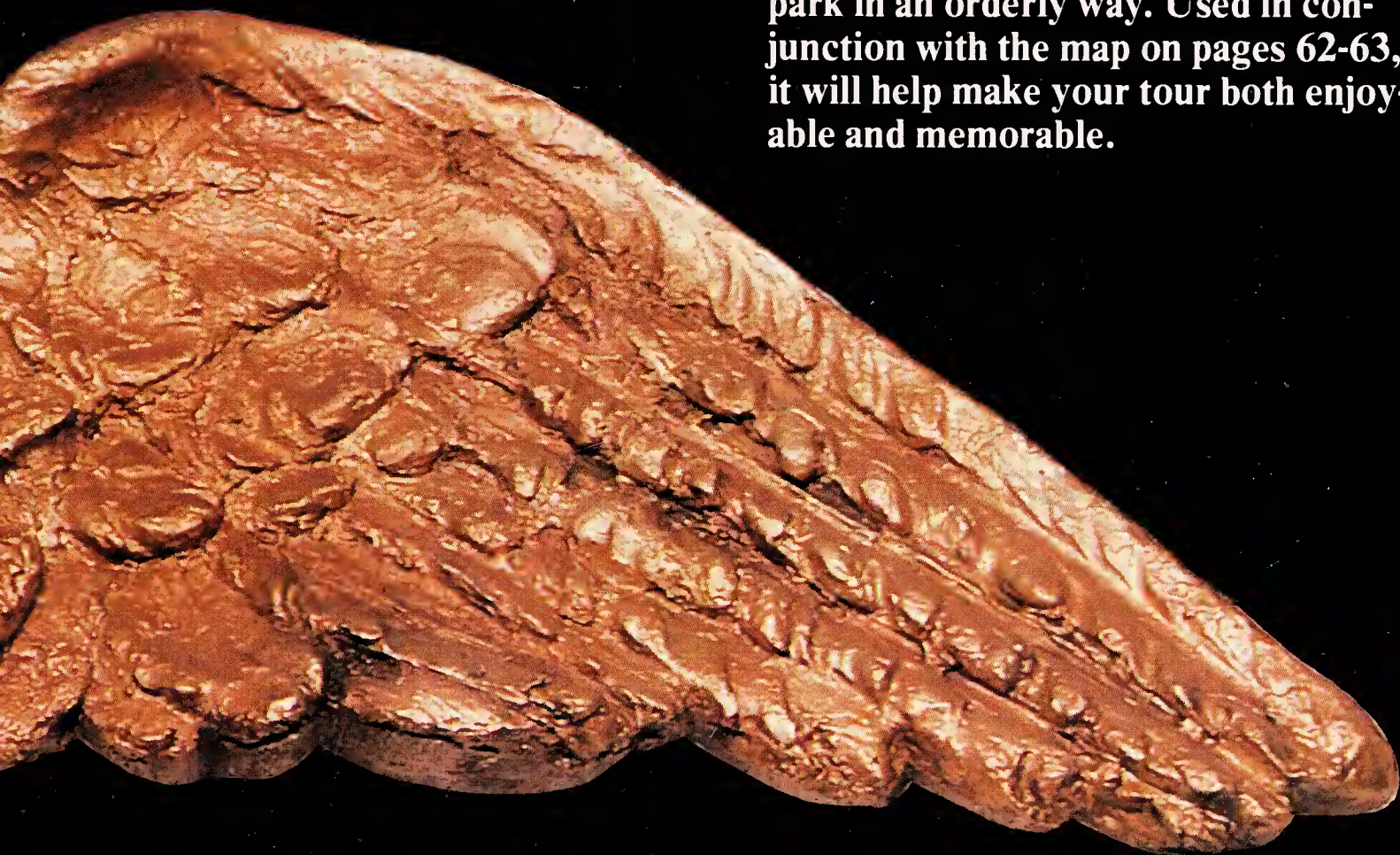
Part 3



Visiting the Park

Independence National Historical Park is rich in places associated with the founding and early growth of the United States. Among its many attractions are government buildings, restored homes, venerable churches, a portrait gallery, exhibits, films and even an operating tavern.

While there is pleasure in a casual stroll among this stunning variety, the park is more rewarding if you take time to plan your visit. There is more here than can be seen in a few hours or even a single day. The guide that follows will help you make the most of your visit. It offers helpful suggestions and introduces the individual units of the park in an orderly way. Used in conjunction with the map on pages 62-63, it will help make your tour both enjoyable and memorable.



Make an Itinerary Time slips away quickly here. Whether your stay is for a few hours or a few days, your tour will go smoother if you take several minutes to study this guide and determine what you want to see.

Most park buildings are within easy walking distance of the visitor center. Outlying sites, such as the Deshler-Morris House in Germantown or the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial across town, can be reached by either automobile or mass transit.

If you have only a few hours, we suggest that you go first to the visitor center, Independence Hall, and the Liberty Bell Pavilion. If you have more time, the following itineraries are suggested:

Half-day Tour

Visitor Center
Carpenters' Hall (exterior only)
Independence Hall
Liberty Bell Pavilion
Franklin Court

Full-day Tour

Visitor Center
Carpenters' Hall
Independence Hall
Congress Hall
Old City Hall
Graff House
Liberty Bell Pavilion
Franklin Court
Second Bank of the United States

Start at the Visitor Center No matter how much time you have, begin at the visitor center at 3d and Chestnut Streets. Here you can see exhibits and an introductory film, "Independence," and find out about daily programs and activities. Park rangers are on duty here and throughout the park to answer questions and help you have a safe and satisfying visit.

Hours and Admission Most park buildings are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; in summer the hours of some buildings are extended. Please note that hours are subject to change without notice and that some buildings may be closed because of lack of staff. Check at the visitor center for the hours of specific buildings.

There are no admission fees except for a nominal charge at the Deshler-Morris House in Germantown. The Bishop White House, the Todd House, and Independence Hall are open only by tour. Free tickets for the Bishop White and Todd Houses can be obtained at the visitor center on the day of visit. Tours of Independence Hall begin in the East Wing, on a first-come, first-served basis.

When to Visit Although temperatures in Philadelphia are usually moderate, summer humidity can sometimes cause discomfort. You should also take into account that mid-spring through Labor Day are the busiest times. Expect to wait in line to get into Independence Hall during this period.

For Special Needs Most park buildings are at least partially accessible by wheelchair. Some sites have portable ramps that can be put in place upon request. Please ask at the visitor

center for further information about accessibility for the disabled.

Inquire also at the visitor center about programs and services in foreign languages.

Publications and Souvenirs Bookstores featuring theme-related publications are located in the visitor center and the West Wing of Independence Hall. Film and souvenirs are available in a number of stores in the vicinity of the park.

Where to Eat Allow sufficient time for rest and refreshments. A variety of food service is available throughout the park area. It ranges from street vendors to restaurants serving full-course meals. Further information is available at the visitor center.

The National Park Service has reconstructed City Tavern, which serves lunch and dinner in an 18th-century atmosphere.

Picnicking is allowed throughout the park, though no indoor facilities are available. Help keep the park clean by putting your trash in the cans provided.

Rules and Regulations There are few rules beyond those of common courtesy. We ask that you not bring food, beverages, and chewing gum into park buildings. Smoking is not permitted in any of the buildings. When parking along the street, please observe city parking regulations.

For Your Safety Don't let your visit be spoiled by an accident. Be careful crossing Philadelphia's busy streets and watch your step on brick walkways and cobblestone surfaces.

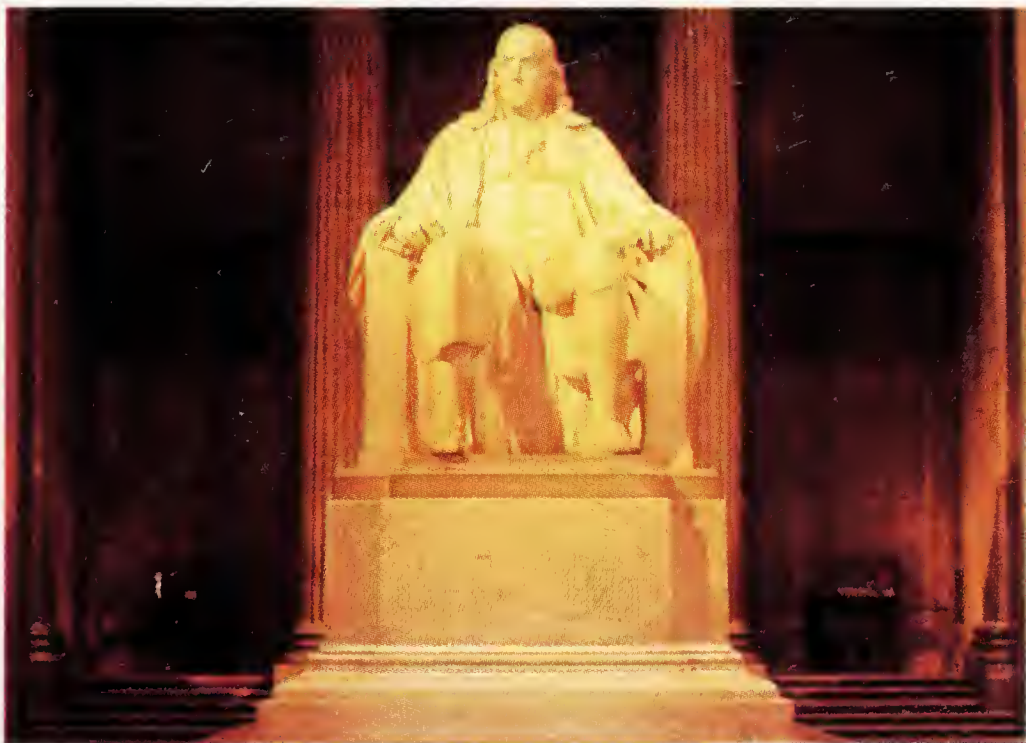
Army-Navy Museum (formerly Pemberton House) depicts the development of the U.S. Army and Navy from 1775 to 1800. Among the exhibits are regimental uniforms, battle dioramas, flags, weapons, and a full-scale replica of a section of a frigate's gundeck. The museum building is a reconstruction of the house built by Joseph Pemberton, a wealthy Quaker merchant, and is typical of the Georgian style of architecture popular during the 18th century.

1 *Chestnut Street at Carpenters' Court*



Benjamin Franklin National Memorial honors Philadelphia's most illustrious citizen. The memorial, located in the Franklin Institute at 20th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, features a colossal statue of Franklin surrounded by a four-part exhibit of his personal possessions and scientific artifacts. Admission to the memorial is free, but a fee is charged for the Franklin Institute Museum. The Institute is approximately 20 blocks from Independence Hall.

2 *20th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway*

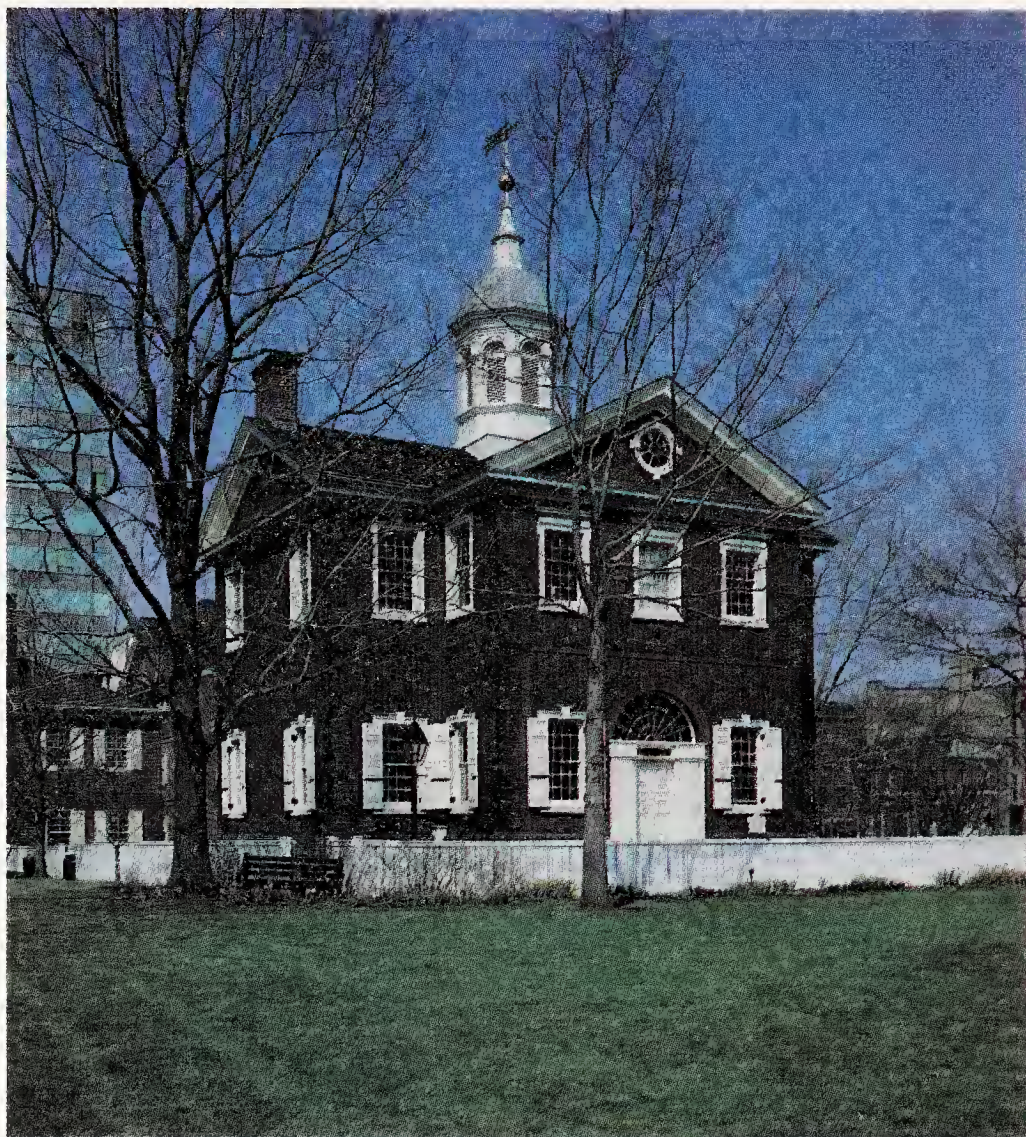


Bishop White House. The Rev. Dr. William White, rector of Christ Church and St. Peter's Church, and the first Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania, lived in this house from the time it was built in 1787 until his death in 1836. White chose its location because it lay midway between the two churches he served. The house has been restored to reflect the lifestyle of upper-class Philadelphians during the 18th century. Many of the items in the house actually belonged to the Bishop. Open by tour only. Free tickets are available at the visitor center.



3 309 Walnut Street

Carpenters' Hall was built in 1770 by the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, a guild founded in 1724 to help its members develop architectural skills and to aid their families in times of need. The delegates to the First Continental Congress met here in September 1774 to air their grievances against King George III. In the spring of 1775, the Second Continental Congress transferred its sessions to the more commodious State House (now Independence Hall), but Carpenters' Hall continued to be used by various political groups. During the Revolutionary War, the Hall served as a hospital and an arsenal for American forces. Though a part of the park, the building and its immediate grounds are still owned and maintained by the Carpenters' Company.

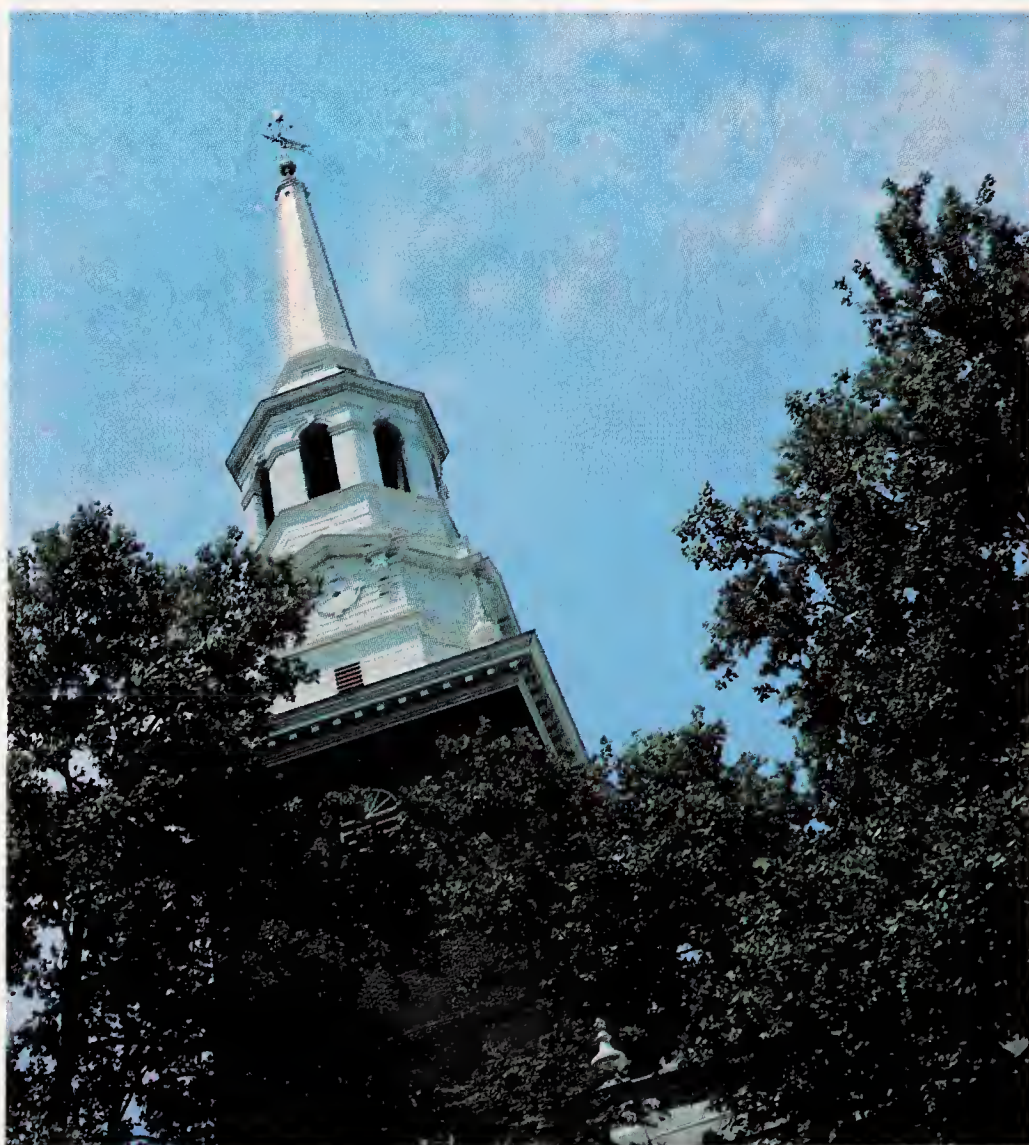


4 320 Chestnut Street between Third and Fourth Streets



Christ Church, built between 1727 and 1754, is considered one of the most beautiful 18th-century structures in the United States—a monument to colonial craftsmanship. It numbered among its congregation both George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. Seven signers of the Declaration of Independence, as well as four signers of the Constitution, are buried in the churchyard or in Christ Church Cemetery at 5th and Arch Streets.

5 *Second Street north of Market Street*



City Tavern

For three decades this tavern was a place for prosperous Philadelphians to dine, lift a glass, join in song and dance, and transact business. Built in 1773 by the “principal gentlemen” of the city, the tavern boasted several large meeting rooms, lodging rooms, two kitchens, and a bar. It was furnished in “the style of a London Tavern,” advertised the keeper, and its coffee room was “well attended and properly supplied with English and American papers and magazines.” John Adams, not one to over-praise,

called it in 1774 “the most genteel” tavern in America.

The tavern was soon caught in the tides of revolution. At a famous meeting here in May 1774, radicals propelled the colony, heretofore moderate, into the forefront of the dispute with England. From then until the end of the century, in war and peace, this tavern was host to the great and near-great of the age—and countless folk who came to dine, to sit with friends, to lodge in agreeable surroundings. In the early





The tavern in 1799.

1800s, City Tavern's place on the Philadelphia social scene was taken by "hotels," then coming into fashion. The tavern at this time catered mostly to merchants. The old glamour was now gone. In 1854 the building was demolished, "immolated on the altar of improvement," as a newspaper put it. The present building is a faithful reconstruction of the original.



City Tavern, called the “most genteel” tavern in America by John Adams, was one of the social, political, and economic centers of late-18th-century Philadelphia. It was built originally in 1773 by a group of eminent Philadelphians who felt that their hometown deserved a fine tavern that reflected its status as the largest, most cosmopolitan city in British North America. The tavern gained fame as the gathering place for members of the Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, and for officials of the Federal Government from 1790 to 1800. It has been reconstructed on the original site as an operating 18th-century tavern serving lunch and dinner daily.

6 *Northwest corner, Second and Walnut Streets*



Congress Hall, constructed in 1787-89 as the Philadelphia County Court House, served as the meetingplace of the U.S. Congress from 1790 to 1800. The House of Representatives met on the main floor, while the Senate assembled upstairs. Among the historic events that took place here were the Presidential inaugurations of George Washington (his second) and John Adams; the establishment of the First Bank of the United States, the Federal Mint, and the Department of the Navy; and the ratification of Jay's Treaty with England. During the 19th century, the building was used by Federal and local courts.

7 *Southeast corner, Sixth and Chestnut Streets*



Deshler-Morris House was erected in 1772-73 as the summer home of David Deshler, a successful Philadelphia merchant. The house served as headquarters for British Gen. Sir William Howe during the Battle of Germantown in October 1777 and as the official residence of President Washington during the Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic of 1793.

8 5442 Germantown Avenue, Germantown



First Bank of the United States, built between 1795 and 1797 as the home of the “government’s banker,” is an excellent example of Neo-classical architecture and is probably the oldest bank building in the country. Formed in 1791 at the urging of Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton to bring order to the Nation’s chaotic finances, the First Bank served the country well until 1811, when its charter was allowed to expire. The building has been restored on the exterior only and is not open to the public.

9 120 South Third Street, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets

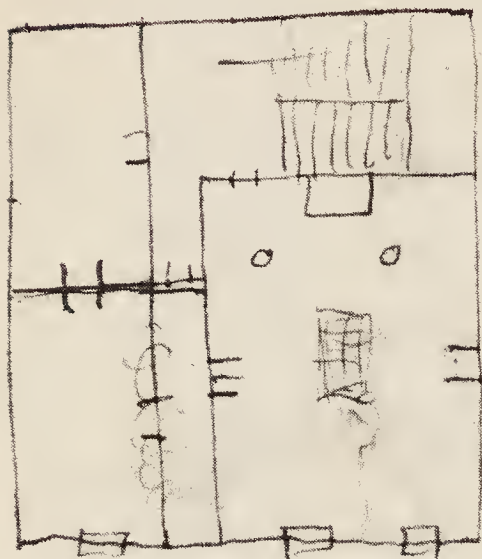


Franklin and His House

Franklin's house, the only one he ever owned, stood in an airy court off Market Street. Built 1763-1765, it was a handsome structure 34 feet square, three stories high, with three rooms to a floor, a kitchen in the cellar, and chimneys on the side. By all accounts it was roomy and comfortable, filled with the fashionable touches of the day and well-suited to Franklin's manner of living. It was, he once said, "a good House contrived to my Mind."

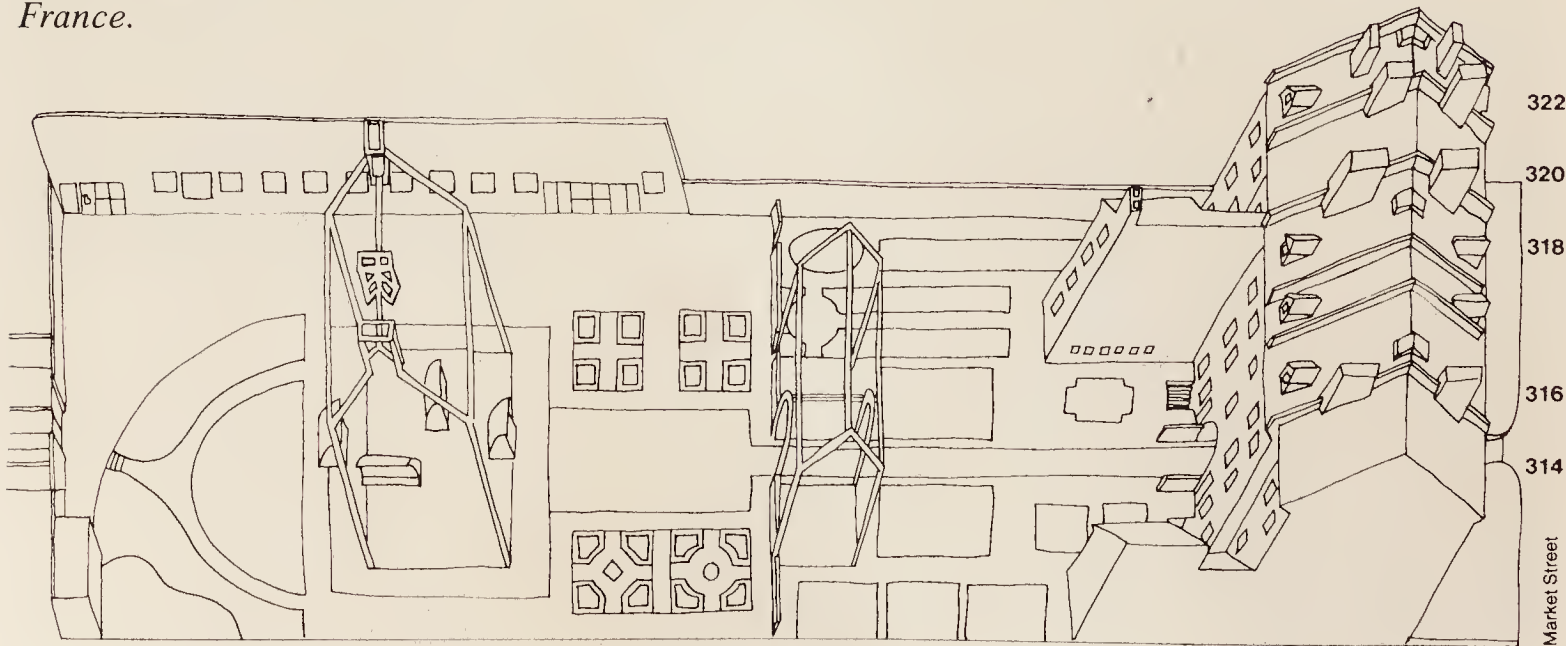
Yet Franklin spent comparatively few years here. Political missions kept him abroad for almost 19 of the next 20 years. When he returned for the last time in 1785 after his brilliant tour as envoy to France, he was 80, home for good, with time to devote to his house. He now built an addition on the west side that expanded the house by half. This gave him space for a library, two bedrooms, two garrets, and a place to store wood. "I hardly know how to justify building a Library at an age that will so soon oblige me to quit it," he mused, "but we are apt to forget that we are grown old, and Building is an Amusement." He also improved the grounds with grass plots, trees, flowering shrubs, and gravel walks.

After Franklin's death in 1790, the house and property passed into the hands of descendents, who lived in it for a time before leasing it out to a succession of tenants. By 1812 there was little interest in the house, and it was torn down to make way for commercial development.



Franklin's sketch of the first floor, in his own hand.

The present development of the site is a nation's belated tribute to perhaps its most representative genius. Steel frames, the design of architect Robert Venturi, outline the original house and the 1786 print shop. Fronting Market Street are restorations of five buildings, three of which are rental houses Franklin built shortly after his return from France.



Franklin Court, is the site of the handsome brick home of Benjamin Franklin, who lived here while serving in the Continental Congress, the Constitutional Convention, and as President of Pennsylvania.

Franklin died here in 1790; the house was torn down about 20 years later. Today the site contains a steel “ghost structure” outlining the spot where Franklin’s house stood and features an underground museum

with a film and displays, an 18th-century printing office, an architectural/archeological exhibit, an operating post office, and a postal museum.

10 *Market Street between Third and Fourth Streets*



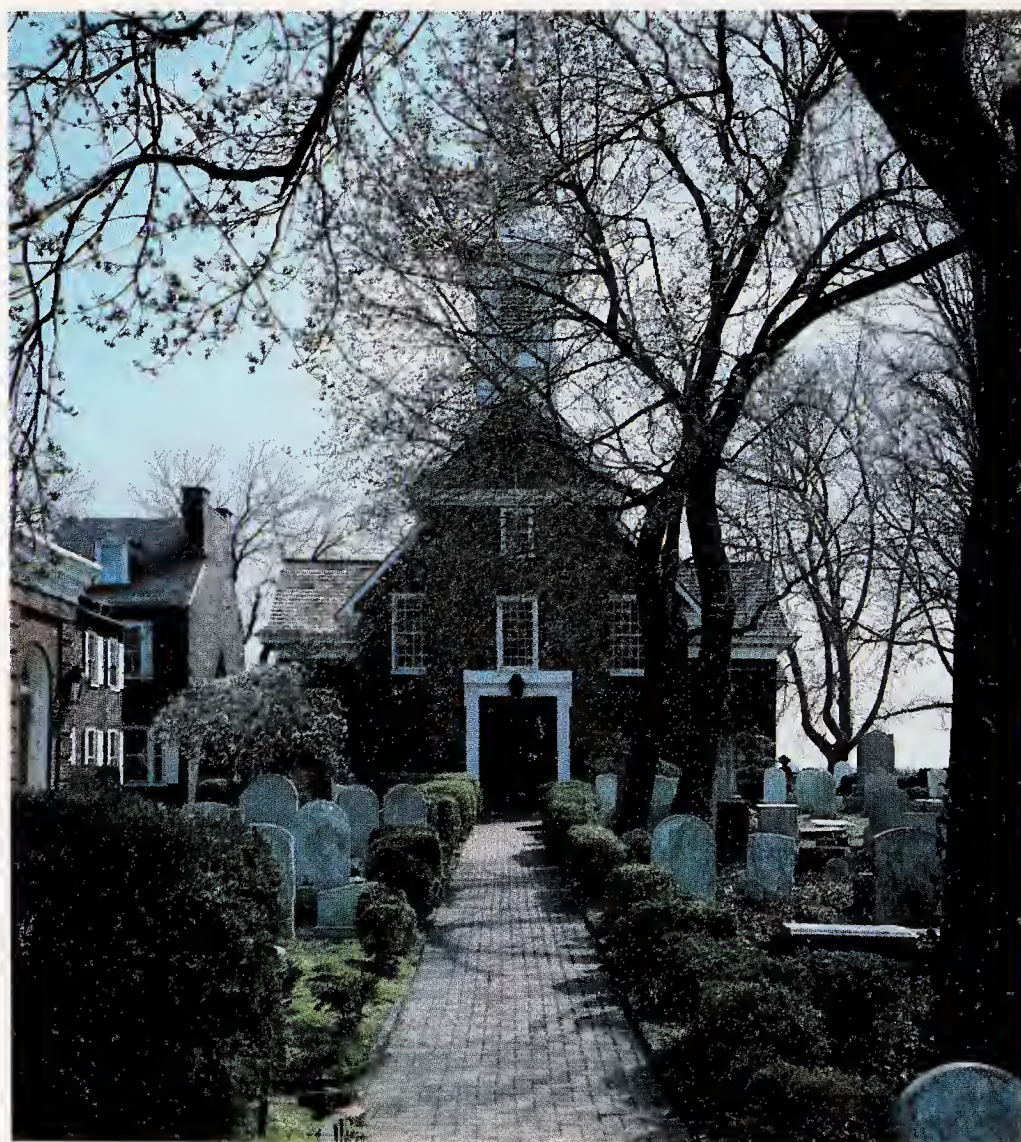
Free Quaker Meeting House which was built in 1783, is the oldest meetinghouse in Philadelphia. The Free Quakers, unlike the main body of Quakers which remained pacifist, supported and fought for the American cause during the Revolution. The building serves as headquarters for the Junior League of Philadelphia, which operates a museum on the first floor.

11 *Fifth and Arch Streets*



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church was built in 1700 and is the oldest church in Pennsylvania. The Swedes preceded the English to this part of America and began the Gloria Dei congregation in 1646. For nearly two centuries this church was under Swedish hierarchy, but after the Scandinavians were absorbed into the general American population, Gloria Dei was admitted into the Episcopal Church in 1845. The church, a National Historic Site, is owned and maintained by its congregation and contains an abundance of historical relics and artifacts.

12 *Delaware Avenue and Christian Street*

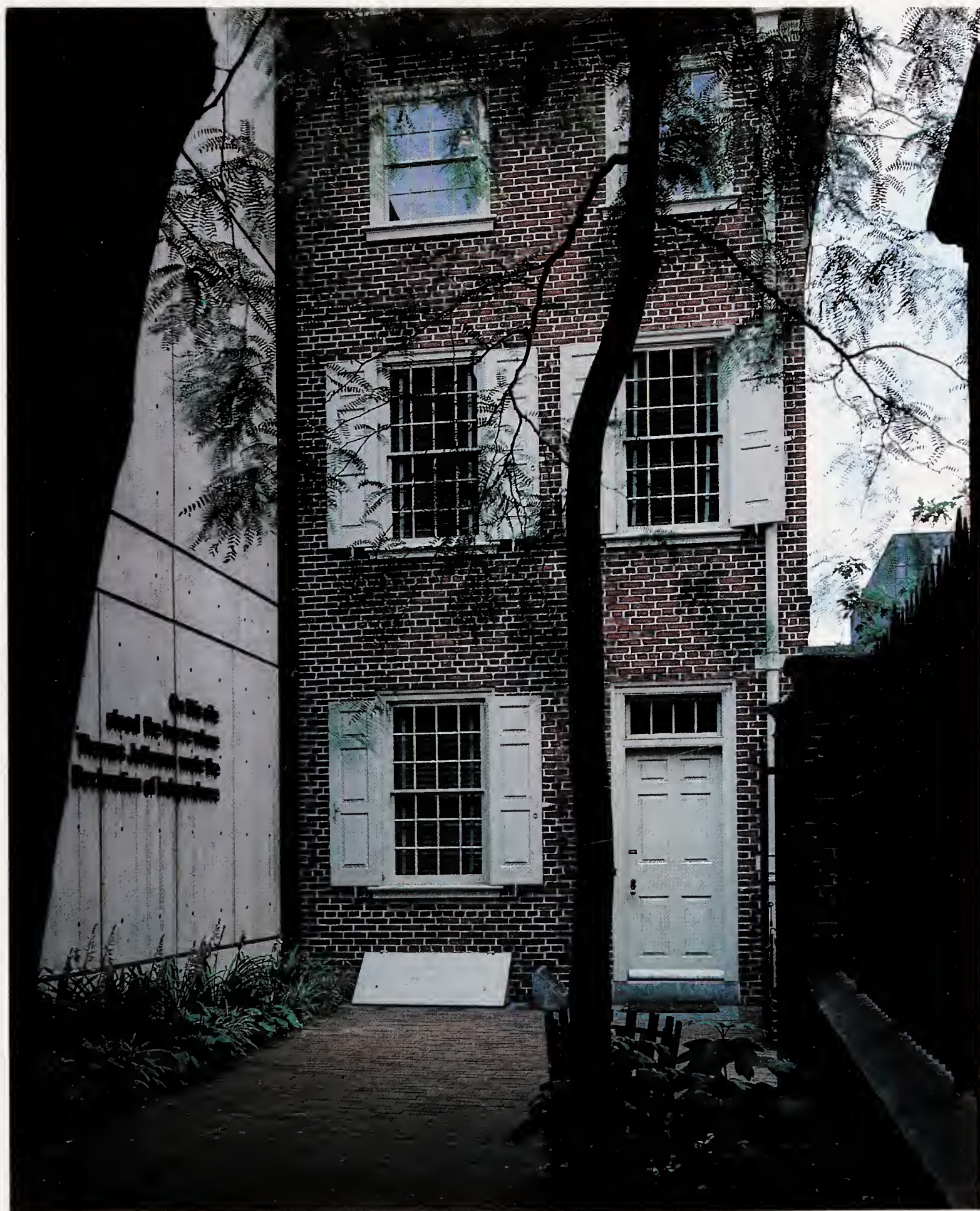


Graff House was originally built in 1775 by Philadelphia bricklayer Jacob Graff, Jr. During the summer of 1776 Thomas Jefferson, a 33-year-old delegate from Virginia to the Continental Congress rented the two second-floor rooms and

there drafted the Declaration of Independence. The house was reconstructed in 1975. The first floor contains exhibits and a short film on the drafting of the Declaration. On the second floor, the bedroom and parlor that Jefferson occupied have

been recreated and contain period furnishings. Also included are reproductions of Jefferson's swivel chair and the lap desk he used when he wrote the Declaration.

13 *Southwest corner, Seventh and Market Streets*

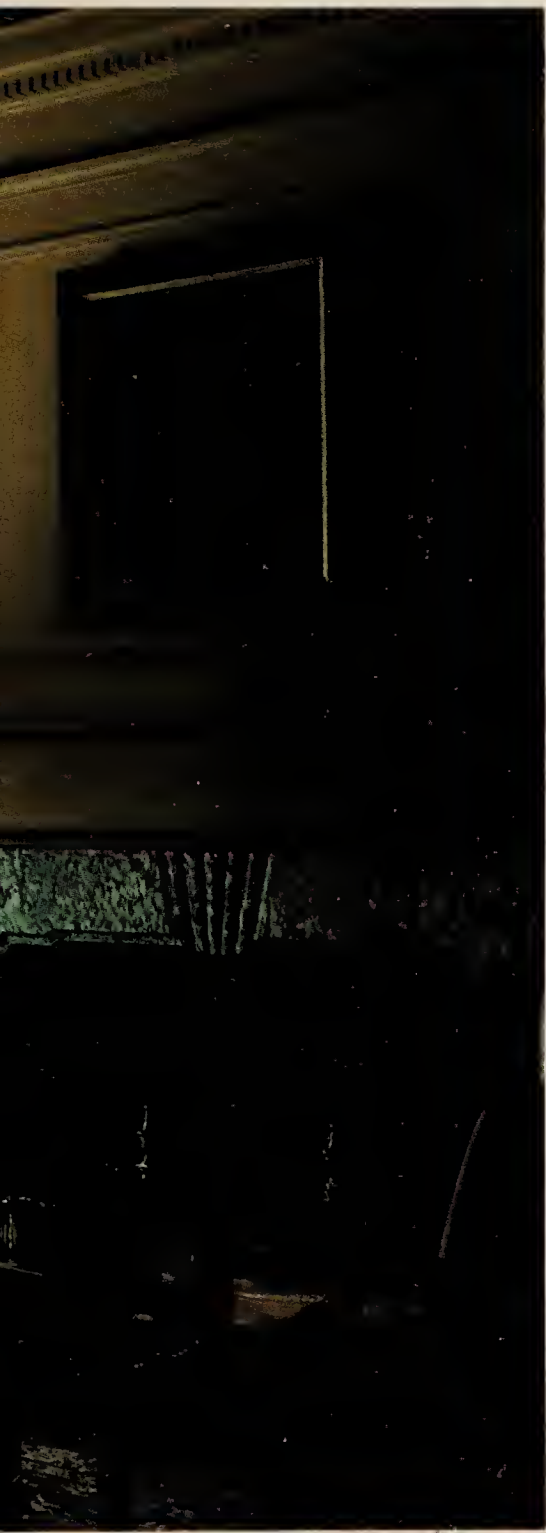


Treasures of Independence



While Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell are among the best-known “treasures” of Independence National Historical Park, there are thousands of other objects, less well-known and less spectacular, among the park’s extensive holdings. Assembled over a period of many years, these items are exhibited in 54 historic room reconstructions and 45 separate exhibit areas throughout the park. They range from fine furniture created by Philadelphia artisans that rivals the best of European craftsmen to words and images on paper and canvas that denote the emergence of an American identity. Some of the treasures appear on these pages.





The Governor's Council Chamber on the second floor of Independence Hall (above) reflects the position and affluence of the colony's chief executive. The chairs flanking the fireplace are by the cabinetmaker Thomas Affleck. Both the maple cellarette for wine bottles (left of the fireplace) and the voluptuous walnut armchair silhouetted at left are Philadelphia made. The armchair is c. 1745, the cellarette c. 1770.



The silver coffee pot at top was made by a Philadelphia craftsman c. 1780-85. It can be seen in the Bishop White House. The dinner plates are 18th-century English and on display in the visitor center. The portrait at left of Rebecca Doz, daughter of a Philadelphia merchant, is attributed to James Claypoole, Jr., c. 1768-70. It hangs in the Second Bank.

Independence Hall was constructed between 1732 and 1756 as the State House of the Province of Pennsylvania. It was planned and designed by lawyer Andrew Hamilton and is considered a fine example of Georgian architecture. From 1775 to 1783 (except for the period of British occupation) this was the meeting place for the Second Continental Congress. It was in the Assembly Room of this building that George Washington was appointed commander in chief of the Continental Army in 1775 and the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. And in same room the design of the American flag was agreed upon in 1777, the Articles of Confederation were adopted in 1781, and the Constitution was written in 1787. The building, inside and out, has been restored wherever possible to its original late-18th century appearance. Most of the furnishings are period pieces (almost all of the original furniture was destroyed during the British occupation), but the silver inkstand on the President's desk in the Assembly Room is the one used by the delegates to sign both the Declaration and the Constitution. The "rising sun" chair used by Washington during the Constitutional Convention is also original. Independence Hall is open by tour only. Tours begin the East Wing and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

14 *Chestnut Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets*

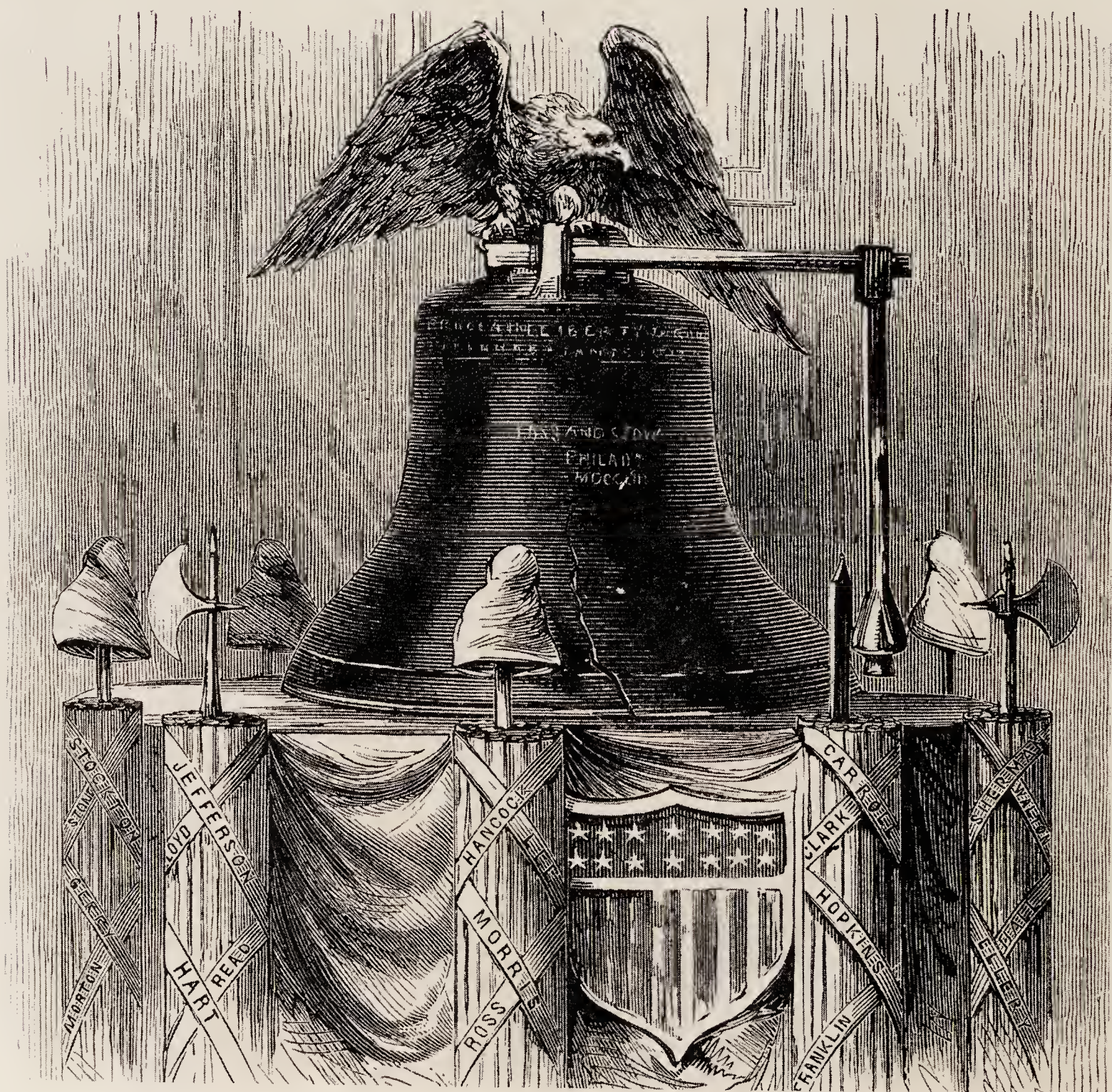




The Liberty Bell



The Liberty Bell is an emblem of liberty around the world. In the affections of the American people, it overshadows even Independence Hall, the building it was so intimately associated with for so many years. The name was coined in the 19th century by anti-slavery groups. Inspired by the "Proclaim Liberty" inscription, they adopted the bell as symbolic of their cause. Over the years the bell's history has become encrusted with a nearly impenetrable blend of fact and fancy. The illustration at left, from an 1837 abolitionist pamphlet, is the first known use of the bell in a publication. The sketch below, which appeared in *Harper's Weekly* in 1869, shows the bell as it was displayed in the Assembly Room between 1854 and 1876.



Liberty Bell Pavilion. Most people associate the Liberty Bell with the events of the American Revolution. Actually, however, the bell was created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges, the democratic constitution that William Penn granted his colony in 1701. Today the bell is a cherished and revered symbol of American freedom.

Cast at London's Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the bell arrived in Philadelphia in August 1752. It cracked while being tested and "two ingenious workmen" of the city, John Pass and John Stow, offered to recast it. They succeeded after two attempts and the bell was hung in the State House tower, where it would see long service. No one knows for sure when the bell next cracked but, according to tradition, it occurred while tolling during the funeral of Chief Justice John Marshall in 1835. The bell was last rung formally on Washington's birthday in 1846.

At 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 1976, the first minute of the Bicentennial year, the Liberty Bell was moved from its former home in Independence Hall to this glass-walled structure. The move was necessary to help preserve Independence Hall from damage due to increased visitation and to make the bell more accessible to everyone who wanted to see and touch it. Park interpreters are on duty each day to talk with visitors about the bell and to answer questions. At night the bell is still visible from outside the Pavilion and visitors can hear its story by using the exterior audio stations.



15 *Market Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets on Independence Mall*

Library Hall was built originally in 1789-90 by the Library Company of Philadelphia, the oldest subscription library in the United States. Members of the Continental and Federal Congresses and the Constitutional Convention used the Library Company's facilities. The original building was demolished in 1884 but the American Philosophical Society rebuilt and enlarged it in 1959. It currently houses the society's library and is open for use by scholars.

16 *105 South Fifth Street*



The Marine Corps Memorial Museum (formerly New Hall) contains exhibits depicting the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps in Philadelphia in 1775 and the exploits of the Corps during the American Revolution. The museum building is a reconstruction of New Hall, built by the Carpenters' Company in 1791 and originally used to house the office of the first Secretary of War, Henry Knox, and his staff. The Marine Corps exhibits are a joint effort by the National Park Service and the Marine Corps Historical Center.

17 *Carpenters' Court*



Mikveh Israel Cemetery is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Philadelphia. It was established as a private burial ground in 1738 by Nathan Levy on land granted to him by the Penn family. In 1774 it was deeded to the Mikveh Israel Synagogue, the only Jewish house of worship that continued to function in the colonies during the Revolution. Haym Salomon, a financier of the Revolution, is buried here in an unmarked grave.

18 *Spruce Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets*



Old City Hall was used by the U.S. Supreme Court from the time the building was completed in 1791 until 1800, when the Federal Government was moved to Washington. Municipal government and courts occupied the building during the 19th century. Today the first floor contains exhibits on the Supreme Court's use of the building; the second floor contains exhibits on late-18th-century Philadelphia's occupations, crafts, and daily activities.

19 *Southwest Corner, Fifth and Chestnut Streets*



The Philadelphia Exchange was constructed in 1834 for the use of the thriving Philadelphia business community. Here stocks and commodities could be traded and the latest business news obtained. Designed by William Strickland, this Greek Revival building has been called "one of the great creations of American architecture." It has been restored on the exterior only and is not open to the public.

20 *Northeast Corner, Third and Walnut Streets*



Philosophical Hall is the only privately owned building on Independence Square. It is the home of the American Philosophical Society, founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 and the oldest learned society in the United States. The society erected the building between 1785 and 1789 and still occupies it. Philosophical Hall is not open to the public.

21 104 South Fifth Street



St. George's Church, at right, is the oldest Methodist Church in the United States. Except for the winter of 1777-78, it has been in constant use since 1769.

22 235 North Fourth Street



St. Joseph's Church was established in 1733 as the first Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia. The present structure dates from 1838.

23 *Willing's Alley, near Fourth and Walnut Streets*



Second Bank of the United States

one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in America, was designed by William Strickland and built between 1819 and 1824. The Second Bank, incorporated in 1816, was one of the most influential financial institutions in the world until 1832, when it became the center of bitter controversy between bank president Nicholas Biddle and President Andrew Jackson. The bank ceased to exist in 1836 after Jackson vetoed the bill to renew its charter, but the building continued to house a banking institution under Pennsylvania charter. From 1845 to 1935 it served as the Philadelphia Customs House. Today it contains the park's Portrait Gallery, "Faces of Independence," an extensive collection of paintings of Colonial and Federal leaders, mostly by Charles Willson Peale. Free guided tours are given upon request. You can also explore the gallery on your own.

24 *420 Chestnut Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets*



Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial. The Polish military engineer who designed and constructed American defense works during the Revolution lived in this house in 1797-98 during his second visit to America.

25 *301 Pine Street*



Todd House, built in 1775, was occupied from 1791 to 1793 by lawyer John Todd, Jr., and his wife Dolley Payne. Todd died during the 1793 yellow fever epidemic. Following her husband's death, Dolley married James Madison, destined to become the fourth President of the United States. The couple subsequently moved to the Madison estate in Virginia. The Todd House reflects the lifestyle of 18th-century Philadelphia's middle class. It is open by tour only. Free tickets are available at the visitor center.

26 *Northeast corner, Fourth and Walnut Streets*



Preservation of a Shrine

Independence National Historical Park had its origin in efforts to preserve the building most closely associated with the winning of American independence—the old State House or Independence Hall as it is known today. After the State government moved to Lancaster in 1799, no one had any immediate use for the building, nor was there any thought of preserving it as a relic of the past. For several years it stood empty. Then the artist Charles Willson Peale received permission to use the building to display his extensive natural history collection and portraits, housed at the time in Philosophical Hall. Though Peale altered the Assembly Room and rebuilt the Long Room to accommodate his specimens, he otherwise took good care of the building and grounds during the next quarter century.

It was during Peale's occupancy that the city, in 1816, bought the State House and put it beyond the reach of private developers. Even so, the building was still hardly regarded as a shrine. It took the visit of Lafayette—Washington's old comrade-in-arms—in 1824 to bring out the first feelings of public veneration for the old structure. A huge arch was constructed in front of the building and portraits of Revolutionary War heroes were hung in the Assembly Room, then called the "Hall of Independence." Lafayette's reception here by dignitaries, and a round of parties, balls, and festivities, did much to stimulate interest in the Revolution.

Out of this new interest came the plan in 1828 to restore the steeple that stood on the rear of the building in 1776. William Strickland's design, though in no sense a restoration, was close to the original. This work was followed in a few years by the first real attempt at restoring the Assembly

Room. John Haviland's refurbishing apparently pleased the local citizens. Over the next two decades the main use of the building was for exhibits and receptions for distinguished visitors and Presidents, who came as if on a pilgrimage. Thus President-elect Lincoln in 1861: "I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live . . . all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated and were given to the world from this Hall. I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence."

As the 1876 Centennial approached, the Assembly Room came in for more work: furniture was collected, the dais rebuilt, pillars erected to support the ceiling, a new clock and bell installed. This restoration sufficed until the 1890's, when a new round of work—more extensive and far more accurate—began. When work was over, the State House approximated its appearance during the Revolution. The two flanking buildings—Congress Hall and the Supreme Court—were restored under the auspices of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1913 and 1922, respectively.

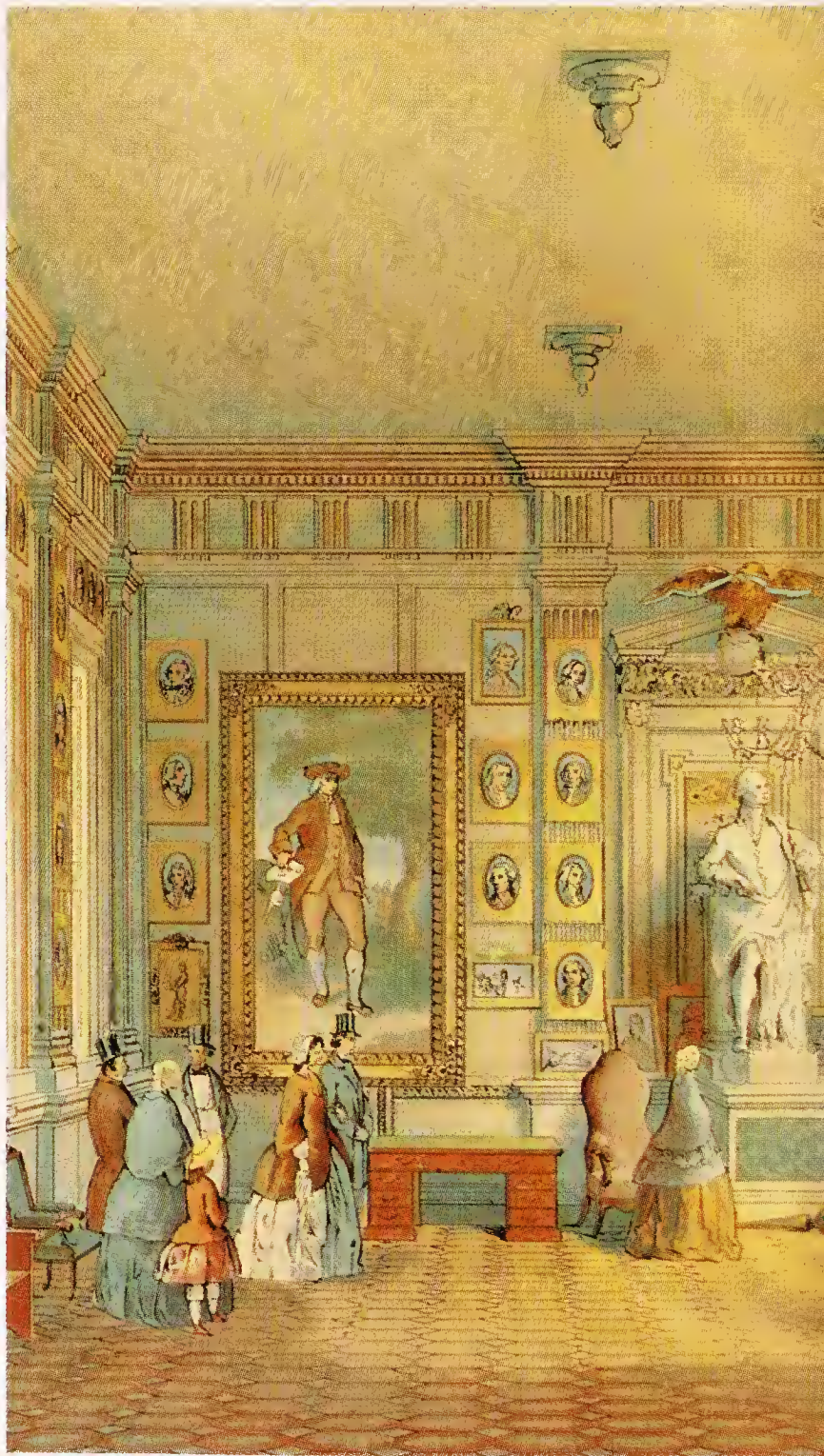
The splendor of Independence Hall now contrasted sharply with its deteriorating neighborhood. Up to this point the burden of preserving a national inheritance was borne by the city and a handful of private organizations. A broader concept and new resources were needed. A start was made in 1938 when the Second Bank, threatened by

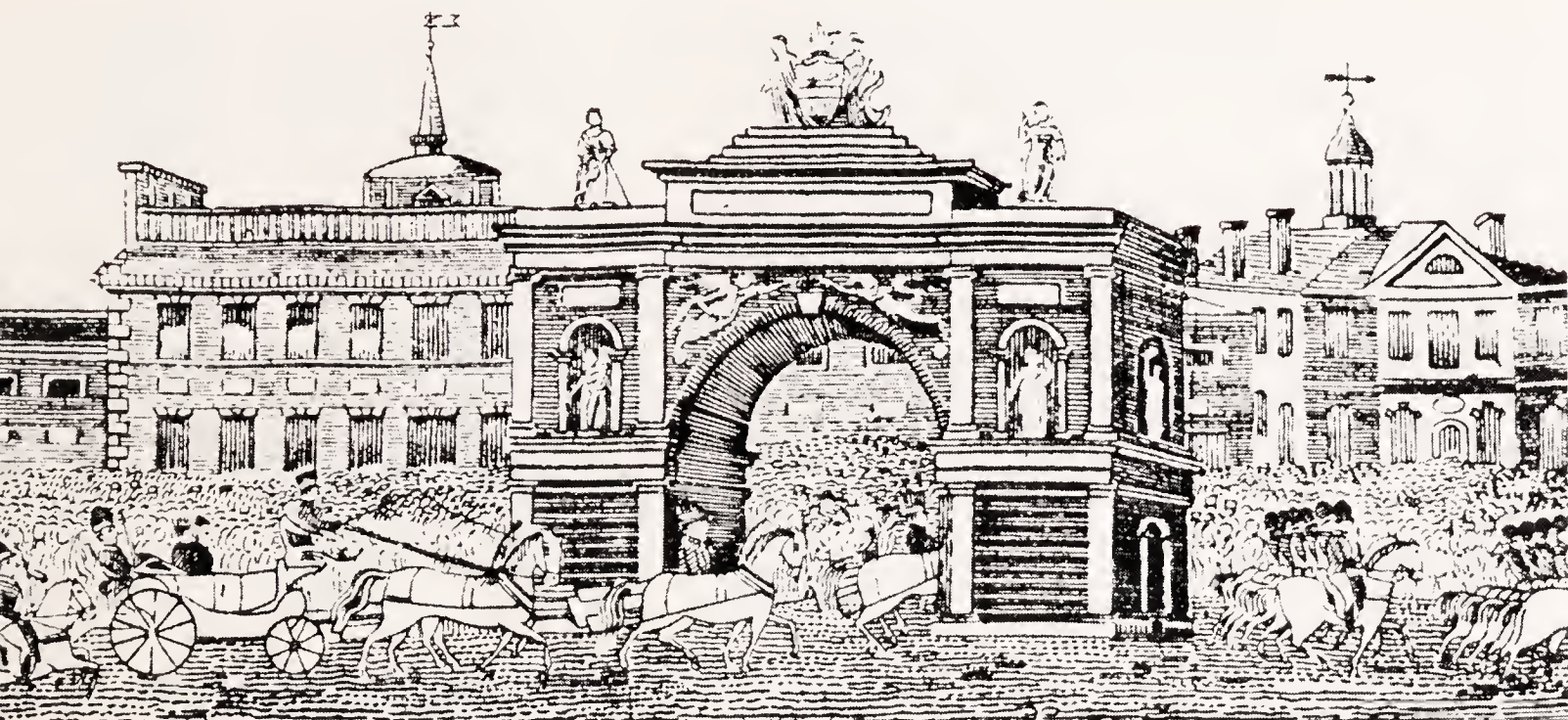
demolition, was designated a national historic site, followed by Gloria Dei Church in 1942, and Independence Hall itself a year later. Many individuals and groups had long been aware of the opportunities for both preservation and renewal in the heart of downtown Philadelphia. In 1942 the representatives of over 50 groups organized themselves as the Independence Hall Association. This organization, still a vigorous champion of preservation, was primarily responsible for the establishment of Independence National Historical Park in 1948.

Congress defined the Federal area as the three city blocks between Walnut and Chestnut Streets from Second to Fifth Streets and a few important nearby areas, such as the site of Franklin's house. The significant buildings in this area include the First and Second Banks of the United States, the Philadelphia Exchange, the Bishop White House, and Todd House. Carpenters' Hall, within the Federal area, and Christ Church, a few blocks away, are private institutions preserved and interpreted through cooperative agreements.

The city and the State have both made vital contributions to the park concept. The city, while retaining title, gave custody of the Independence Hall group of buildings and the square to the Park Service; the State assumed responsibility for the development of the three-block mall north of Independence Hall.

The advent of the Park Service in 1950 provided a vital center for the coordination and direction of the many private, municipal, and State initiatives. Extensive research and restoration have been carried out on every building, and a green and finely scaled urban landscape created where once there was mostly decay and neglect.

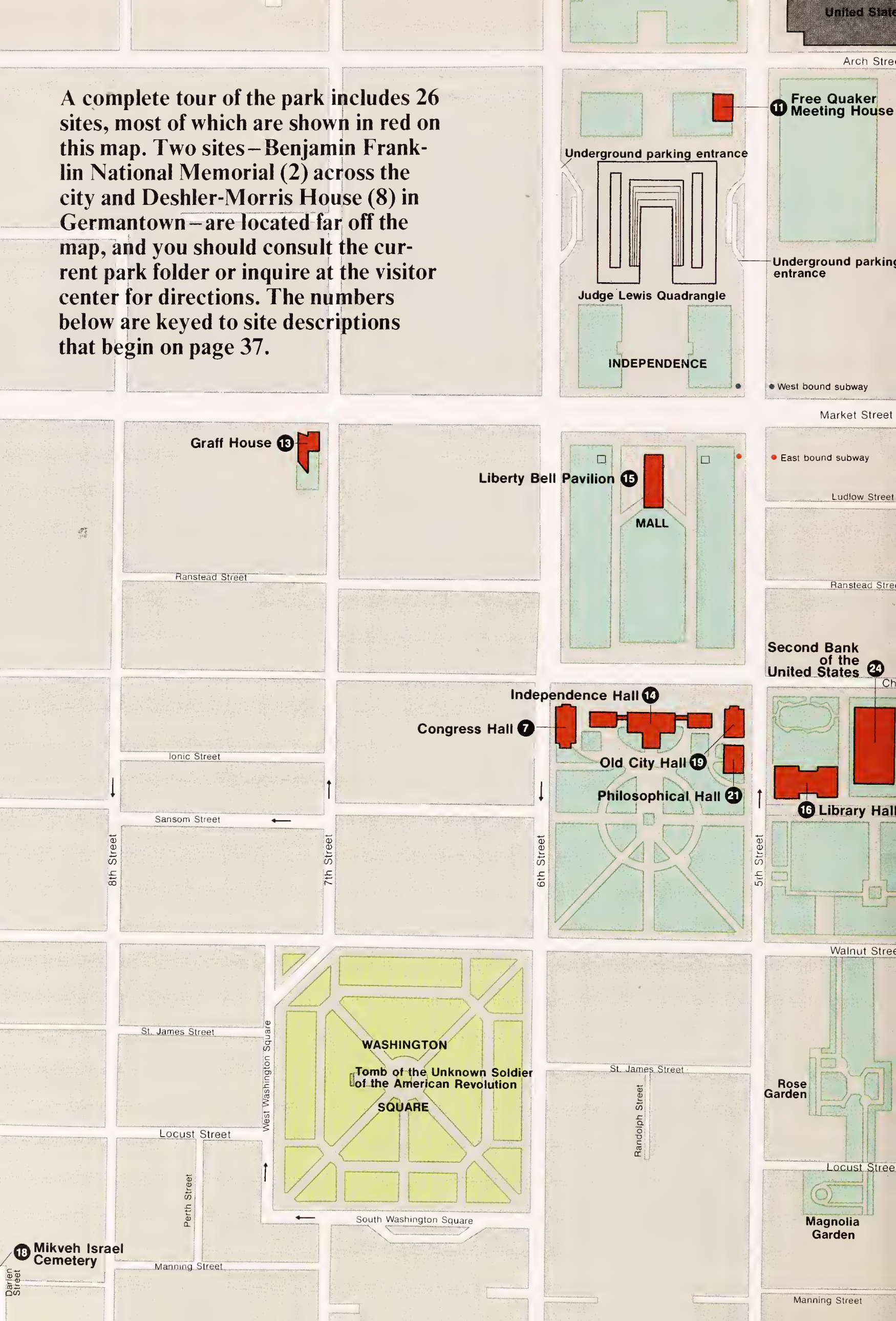




Before restoration, the Todd House (above) was a corner eatery.

The color views at left describe two of the more startling transformations within the old State House in the 19th century. At top, Charles Willson Peale unveils his museum on the second floor (1822). Below is a lithograph of the Assembly Room in 1856, shortly after it was opened to the public. Lafayette's visit in 1824 brought an outpouring of sentiment for the old hero. In the woodcut above, the general arrives at Independence Hall, passing through a huge triumphal arch built specially for the occasion.

A complete tour of the park includes 26 sites, most of which are shown in red on this map. Two sites – Benjamin Franklin National Memorial (2) across the city and Deshler-Morris House (8) in Germantown – are located far off the map, and you should consult the current park folder or inquire at the visitor center for directions. The numbers below are keyed to site descriptions that begin on page 37.





To St. George's Church
(two blocks)

Betsy Ross House
(City of Philadelphia)

To Elfreth's Alley

North

0 10 Meters 100

0 100 Feet 500

Mascher Street

Cuthbert Street

Filbert Street

American Street

5 Christ Church

Commerce Street

West bound subway

10 Franklin Court

Market Street Houses

Entrance to underground museum

East bound subway

Bodine Street

Bank Street

Black Horse Alley

Trotter St.

Strawberry Street

Letitia Street

Interstate 95

To Penn's Landing

1 Army-Navy Museum
(Pemberton House)

17

First Bank of the United States

9

4 Carpenters' Hall

Bicentennial Bell Visitor Center

Entrance Parking Garage

Site of Slate Roof House

6 City Tavern

2nd Street

Front Street

Delaware Avenue

3rd Street

Dock Street

Chancellor Street

Locust Street

20 Philadelphia Exchange

3 Bishop White House

23 St. Joseph's Church

To Thaddeus Kosciuszko NM
(two blocks)

To Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church
(1.2 km/.74 mi south)

12

25

Administrative Offices

Todd House

18th-century garden

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Dock Street

Mattis Street

2nd Street

Front Street

Delaware Avenue

Interstate 95

To Penn's Landing

Black Horse Alley

Trotter St.

Strawberry Street

Letitia Street

Bank Street

Bodine Street

Commerce Street

American Street

Filbert Street

Cuthbert Street

Mascher Street

North

0 10 Meters 100

0 100 Feet 500

Entrance to underground museum

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Commerce Street

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Filbert Street

Cuthbert Street

Mascher Street

North

0 10 Meters 100

0 100 Feet 500

Credits

American Antiquarian Society: 9 (1741 woodcut).
American Philosophical Society: 44.
Boston Museum of Fine Arts: 18 (Revere and S. Adams by John Singleton Copley).
Brown Collection: 11 (Howe).
Donnelley & Sons, R.R.: 62-63.
Fistrovitch, George: cover, 4-5, 14-15, 34-35, 37 (top), 38-39, 40-41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48-49, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58.
Gallagher, Lynn T.: 8-9, 19, 24, 28, 29, 30 (Deshler-Morris House), 31 (coach), 32.
Historical Society of Pennsylvania: 12 ("President's House"), 13 (First Bank), 22, 26-27 (Edward Savage painting), 41 (Birch print).
Independence National Historical Park Collection: 17, 18 (Adams, Dickinson, and Robert Morris by Charles Willson Peale and Patrick Henry by an unknown artist after Lawrence Sully), 24 (bottom), 27 (Madison by Peale and Jefferson by James Sharples), 28 (Sherman and Ellsworth), 29 (Wilson), 30 (Morris House and Rush Statue), 31 (Hamilton, Jefferson, and Knox by Peale), 60-61 (Rosenthal lithograph and 1951 photo).
Lautman, Robert: 16 (Franklin Court), 40, 45, 50-51.
Library Company of Philadelphia: 8 (Holme map), 12 (Birch engraving of Indians).
Library of Congress: 8 (map), 18 (Galloway), 29 (Gouverneur Morris).
National Gallery of Art: 10 (Paine), 18 (Jay by Gilbert Stuart).
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts: 60 (Peale, *The Artist in His Museum*).
Philadelphia, city of: 6.
Philadelphia Free Library: 60-61 (1824 woodcut).
Schlecht, Richard: 10 (*Randolph*).
Troiani, Don: 20-21.
Valley Forge Historical Society: 11 (*Battle of Germantown* by Xavier Della Gatta, 1782).
Virginia State Library: 31 (Randolph).
Woodward, William: 16 (Franklin).

National Park Service

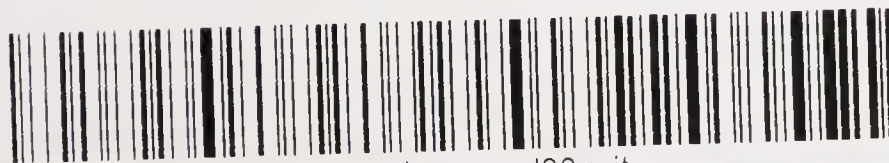
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park was authorized by Act of Congress in 1948 to assure the preservation of several historic buildings around Independence Hall in the heart of Philadelphia. By an agreement in 1950 between the City of Philadelphia and the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service administers the Independence Hall group of buildings and Independence Square, but the city retains ownership of the property. A superintendent whose address is 313 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This responsibility includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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A Guide to Independence National Historical Park

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